

Violence and the police

In Friday's magazine

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Mordechai and Esther's tomb said damaged in Gulf war

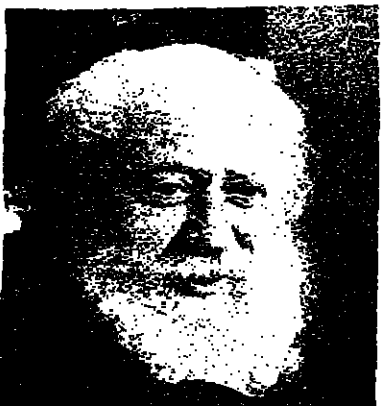
As Purim approaches, a report from Iran indicates that the traditional tomb of Mordechai and Esther has been damaged by Iraqi bombing and that the ancient town of Shushan has been almost completely destroyed in the Gulf war.

The report appears today in the ultra-Orthodox weekly *Erev Shabbat*. The newspaper's correspondent writes from Cairo, quoting an Egyptian source who often travels to Iran and is familiar with the tomb in Hamadan, a site venerated by Jews and Moslems alike.

According to the Egyptian informant, an Iraqi bomb which fell near the tomb caused the collapse of some of its internal structure. Despite the damage, the informant said, pilgrims continue to visit the shrine.

In the past, the report says, most of the visitors were Jews, but today they are elderly Moslems. Young Shi'ites, however, display antagonism towards anything Jewish, and there is danger to the structure from that quarter, the Egyptian informant told *Erev Shabbat*.

The informant added that Qal'a-e-Shush, the site of ancient Shushan, is in the war zone and has been conquered and reconquered.



Avraham Shapira (Karlinsky)
Rabbi Shapira: No spiritual dialogue with non-Jews

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira sees no place for a spiritual dialogue with non-Jews, although he hopes the pope's planned visit to a Rome synagogue in April will reduce anti-Semitism.

In an official statement released yesterday, the chief rabbi said: "We all hope this visit will help to decrease feelings of anti-Semitism among Christians." Such feelings, he added, have been greatly encouraged through the ages by the attitudes of Catholics towards Jews.

But he went on to stress that he did "not see in the visit of the pope to the synagogue any rapprochement in matters of faith. The rabbinate in Israel sees no place for a dialogue in matters of faith. As it is written in Micah, 'For all the peoples shall go in the name of their gods and we shall go in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'"

The passage from the prophet Micah is the traditional Jewish response to missionaries.

Exchange slumps as Peres fails to allay fears

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

The failure of Prime Minister Peres to issue a convincing denial regarding plans to tax stock exchange turnovers or profits was the major factor behind yesterday's share market slump. This is the view of financial analysts and market participants, while economic observers in Jerusalem last night took the line that the stock market's reaction to what it sees as a growing political breakdown will spread to other parts of the economy.

When the share market reopened for trading early yesterday afternoon after Tuesday's imposed halt, it immediately became clear that the huge selling wave that had built up over the previous day-and-a-half was not going to encounter any serious resistance.

In fact, at the end of the session, the statistics showed that the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange had experienced one of its worst days ever. Out of 440 shares and options, no less than 371 fell in price and only nine rose; and 231 of the falling issues failed to attract buyers, even at the maximum permissible daily limit of a 10 per cent fall. These were marked "sellers only," a procedure under which no trading takes place in the issue and its price is marked down by 5 per cent from the previous session.

(Continued on Page 11)



Britain's Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson seal their engagement with a kiss at Buckingham Palace yesterday when their betrothal was officially announced. (See story page 4)
(Reuter telephone)

No Exchange tax, Moda'i insists

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i continued to insist yesterday that stock exchange transactions and profits would not be taxed.

Appearing before the Knesset Finance Committee, Moda'i also said the shekel would not be devalued. Such a step would only spark inflation, he said.

Moda'i denied all reports that there were plans to tax stock exchange transactions. He said that on Tuesday some investors had placed sell orders for entire portfolios.

Reports that Prime Minister Peres was considering such a tax appeared in the media Tuesday, leading to a panic wave of sell orders and a one-day closure of the exchange.

Peres confirmed on Tuesday afternoon that a transaction tax was possible, but remained silent on the issue yesterday.

In an Israel Radio interview yesterday, Moda'i said the government regards the stock exchange as a source of funds to finance growth. "If we imposed a tax, we'd be killing the cow, not milking it," he said.

In a further attempt to restore calm, Moda'i said that rumours of an impending devaluation were baseless. The economy, he said, could remain stable for a long time if wages did not increase.

Referring to opposition in the alignment to the proposed education levy and tax on old-age allowances, he said that changes in the budget were possible, but added that he

strongly opposed new taxes. He indicated that any changes in the proposed budget would have to come from the cabinet and not him, since it was the cabinet that had originally approved the budget.

Indirectly criticizing labour opponents of the education levy, Moda'i said: "Apparently we live in Cheim. I really do not know who favours the levy and who opposes it, after all, it was Education Minister Yitzhak Navon who proposed imposing a levy on parents."

Moda'i said that if the government and the coalition prove unable to get Knesset approval for the budget, serious doubts will be cast on the government's ability to function properly.

Israel to appoint 3 West Bank mayors

By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic correspondent

The government intends to simultaneously appoint three leading West Bank notables in "a few weeks' time" as mayors of Hebron, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, cabinet sources told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The simultaneous appointment is in line with requests from the candidates and with a high-level Israeli decision following the assassination of Nablus mayor Zaefer al-Masri.

The three mayors will probably be Jamal Tarifi in Al-Bireh, Dr. Mohammed Ja'abari in Hebron and Adel Kassis in Ramallah.

The government decision to appoint the three men followed talks with leading West Bank notables, including one or more of the candidates, who firmly opposed holding

elections for mayor. The notables argued that elections would be marked by terrorist intimidation, and the results would not necessarily reflect the will of the majority of the inhabitants of the territories.

Defence Minister Rabin and, to a lesser extent, Prime Minister Peres are known to oppose elections, since the election of anti-Husseini extremists would put a major obstacle on the path to any interim arrangement with Jordan, which is one of the government's main intermediate aims.

The government is delaying the appointments for a few weeks to allow more time to elapse after the Masri killing.

Observers think it likely that Hafez Toukan, the acting mayor of

Nablus, would also agree to a permanent appointment after the three others take office.

Mustafa Abd a-Nabi a-Natsche, dismissed mayor of Hebron, was denied permission to leave the West Bank last week to attend a conference in Saudi Arabia of the Arab Cities' Organisation, it was learned last night. A source in the military government said that Natsche had asked to attend the conference as "mayor of Hebron." Since he is not the mayor, the source said, the request was "irrelevant."

The mayors of Bethlehem, Beit Jalla, Beit Sahur and Jericho were not invited to the conference, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said last night.

Cableway's Druse chairman admits he's the 'shabbos goy'

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Druse lawyer Neziha Halabi does not mind being a *shabbos goy* — as long as it enables the Bat Galim to Stella Maris cableway to operate on the Sabbath. And he frankly admits that he is playing the role of a front man in an attempt to overcome the objections of the religious bloc to Sabbath operations.

Halabi is chairman of the Haifa Cable Car Company, which recently purchased the controversial project from the developers, the Haifa Economic Corporation (itself a subsidiary of the municipality), for \$1.4

million. Although Halabi holds what he describes as symbolic shares in the company, as chairman he nevertheless has full voting and decision-making rights.

This, he says, frees the Schechtman family, who put up the purchase money, from religious problems.

He says he will employ non-Jews to supervise Sabbath operations.

Halabi, a member of the Israeli Bar Association, sees the Sabbath operation of the cable-car as an issue of human rights.

"In this case the religious minority is trying to impose its will on the

secular majority, and this, in my opinion, is unfair and unjust."

But would Halabi hold the same attitude if the roles were reversed and a Jew offered to run an enterprise in his home village of Daliat al-Carmel, despite objections from religious Druse?

He replies that a great deal would depend on the circumstances. "As a secular person myself, I would defend the rights of the observant if these were being deliberately hurt by non-religious people."

"At the same time I am opposed to the orthodox trying to harm the rights of secular citizens."

Hail of bullets outside trade fair

Israeli woman shot dead in Cairo, three wounded

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Agencies

CAIRO. — An Israeli hostess at the Cairo Trade Fair was killed and three other Israelis were wounded yesterday when gunmen opened fire on them with automatic weapons outside the fair.

The gunmen struck at 5:45 p.m. According to one report, Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir had visited the Israeli pavilion at the fair only a quarter of an hour before. Another report said Sharir had been at the fair earlier, but that Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson had toured the pavilion 10 minutes before the attack. It was not clear whether the gunmen had intended to attack one of the Israeli officials.

The murdered woman, Eti Tal-Or, was the wife of an Israeli Embassy employee, as is the other woman who was wounded. The two wounded men are embassy employees. All

four had been working at the Israeli pavilion. Officials had not released their names by prestime last night.

Egyptian authorities said the gunmen attacked a car carrying the four Israelis as they drove out of the fairground complex in the suburb of Heliopolis.

All four were taken to the hospital, where the woman died, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Prime Minister Peres last night issued a statement expressing deep shock over the attack and said he was certain that Egyptian authorities would find the guilty parties.

Government sources said the attackers used two cars, one of which blocked the Israeli vehicle while gunmen opened fire from the second.

Egyptian Television said last night that security forces had pursued the attackers but had failed to capture them.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry last night took the rare step of appealing to witnesses to come forward with information to help in the search for the killers.

A letter received last night by a

Western news agency claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of "Egypt's Revolution."

A group using the same name took responsibility for the assassination last August of Israeli diplomat Albert Atrakchi and the June 1984 shooting of another Israeli diplomat, Zvi Kedat, who was wounded in the hand.

The statement, delivered about 30 minutes after the attack, said:

"Our Egyptian Nasserite armed vanguard today answered back by sending the bodies of some members of the Israeli intelligence [organization] Mossad, in charge of the Israeli stand in the Cairo Trade Fair, to hell."

The statement condemned President Hosni Mubarak's government for "accepting repeated insults directed against the Egyptian people by the American and Israeli governments," and called for the abrogation of the Camp David accords.

An Israeli diplomat in Cairo said last night that two of the wounded were out of danger and the third, a man, was in critical condition.

(Continued on Page 2, Col.2)

Alignment to drop 'territorial compromise' from platform

By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic correspondent

The Labour Alignment is expected to adopt a foreign policy platform tomorrow which, for the first time, will drop all mention of "territorial compromise" and will call for "interim arrangements" with Jordan and the Palestinians.

The party's policy formulation sub-committee, headed by former education minister Aharon Yadin, reached agreement on the platform proposals on Sunday night. They are likely to be approved by the political committee and the party convention preparatory committee at their meetings today.

The formulation committee's proposed platform states that Israel, "on the way to peace, will also initiate interim arrangements. In negotiations, Israel will propose the autonomy plan on the basis of the Camp David agreements and would be willing to discuss any other interim arrangement."

The committee also agreed to a clause stating that "Israel will strive to achieve peace with Jordan and a solution to the Palestinian problem through direct negotiations with representatives of Jordan and the Palestinians." The proposed platform rejects negotiations with the PLO.

Party sources said the platform leaves all options open. The sources said the omission of territorial compromise in the platform, for the first time since the 1967 Six Day War, is due both to its unpopularity among the Israeli electorate and to its unacceptability to Jordan's King Hussein.

Shouting in the Knesset forces early adjournment

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

A rambunctious Knesset forced Deputy Speaker Dan Tichon first to declare a 10-minute recess yesterday afternoon, and then to adjourn the sitting prematurely half an hour later.

At 4:45 p.m. Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) mounted the rostrum to present his motion for the agenda on "the influence of the Herut convention on Israeli politics and the need to re-examine the rotation agreement."

The television floodlights, which had been off most of the day, were turned on for the Sarid motion. Michael Eitan and Yehoshua Matza (both Likud) started clapping their hands in protest.

They were soon joined by their fellow Likud members and those of the religious parties, notably Avra-

ham Verdiger, Haim Druckman, and Avraham Shapira. Soon Alignment MKs made their way to the centre of the chamber and traded shouts and insults with their rivals.

"We're moving towards a dictatorship of the media," Eitan shouted. Verdiger, referring to two motions presented earlier in the day, exclaimed, "For Russian Jewry no TV, and for this show, yes?"

Unable to cope, Tichon called a 10-minute recess at 5:50 p.m. When the sitting recommenced, with the TV lights on, Eitan protested that television ignored what he called important subjects and came to life — "as if by pre-arrangement" — when Sarid's "vexatious motion" came up. He asked Tichon to order the lights turned off.

Mordechai Bar-On (CRM)

(Continued on Page 2, Col.2)

Arab power firm 'should give up Jewish supply rights'

By JOEL GREENBERG

Israeli officials have informally suggested to the debt-ridden Jerusalem District Electricity Company that it gives up its concession to supply power to Jewish neighbourhoods and settlements, in order to cut losses and move towards economic recovery, Israeli and company sources said yesterday.

Under the proposal, the company would relinquish its concession to supply power to Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem across the 1967 Green Line as well as to West Bank settlements. It would use the money earned from selling off its power distribution equipment in these areas to cover operating costs.

In return, the company would be given a revised concession that would allow it to continue operating

beyond 1987, when its current concession expires. A member of the JDEC board of directors said he did not believe the company would accept the plan because it would mean the surrender of large areas falling within the company's concession.

Energy Ministry sources insist any such plan would only be considered after the company paid off its \$12 million debt to the Israel Electric Corporation. The JDEC buys some 90 per cent of the power it supplies from the IEC, and the interest on its debt has been piling up at the rate of \$1 million a month. Two weeks ago the Jerusalem District Court issued an attachment order on the company's assets, and court bailiffs say its property will be seized by the end of the month if the debt has not been paid.

Kaddoumi to meet UK Foreign Office official

LONDON (AFP). — Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, is scheduled to meet here soon with a ranking member of the Foreign Office.

A Foreign Office spokesman did not say exactly when the meeting would take place, but said it was "part of a series...between British officials and the PLO."

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The weather at major Swissair destinations

	25.2.86	26.2.86	27.2.86	28.2.86
	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	4	13	5	15
BRUSSELS	3	12	5	15
BUENOS AIRES	13	20	15	22
CHICAGO	4	12	5	15
COPENHAGEN	1	14	7	18
FRANKFURT	1	14	15	20
GENEVA	2	15	15	20
HELSINKI	3	16	4	17
HONG KONG	18	24	20	26
JOHANNESBURG	14	22	17	25
LOS ANGELES	1	15	15	20
LONDON	1	15	15	20
MADRID	6	13	16	21
MONTREAL	1	15	15	20
NEW YORK	0	12	3	16
OSLO	1	15	15	20
PARIS	8	14	16	21
SAO PAULO	22	27	23	28
STOCKHOLM	3	16	16	21
TOKYO	6	13	9	16
TORONTO	1	15	15	20
VIENNA	1	15	15	20
ZURICH	1	15	15	20

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Min-Max	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	60	9-13	14
Golan	60	8-15	16
Nahariya	62	6-12	13
Safed	62	6-12	13
Haifa Port	72	14-16	18
Tiberias	44	10-22	23
Nazareth	61	10-20	21
Afula	61	10-20	21
Shomron	58	10-16	17
Tel Aviv	67	13-20	20
B-G Airport	59	10-19	20
Jericho	33	13-24	25
Gaza	60	12-19	20
Beersheba	46	7-19	21
Eilat	28	13-25	26

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Benjamin Navon (Weiser) Chair in International Law and International Relations, endowed by the West Coast Friends of Bar-Ilan University (U.S.), was inaugurated yesterday at the university.

The Rotenreich Memorial Foundation yesterday awarded 370 scholarships totalling \$74,000 at a ceremony in Tel Aviv. The recipients, who each received \$200, include prisoners who want to continue their education, underprivileged youths and children from large families.

Shamai Davidson, 59, leading psychoanalyst

Professor Shamai (Sam) Davidson, director of the Shalvata Medical Centre in Hod Hasharon, died on Tuesday. He was 59.

After qualifying at Glasgow Medical School, Davidson studied psychiatry in Oxford and came to Israel in 1955. He was one of the country's leading psychoanalysts, but his main field of study gradually became the Holocaust. A warm and compassionate man with a gentle sense of humour, Davidson became widely known for his research on the survivors of the concentration camps and held the Elie Wiesel Chair on Holocaust Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

He is survived by his wife, Jenny, four children and a grandson. (A.B.)

Two Gaza strip residents murdered

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Two Gaza strip residents were murdered yesterday morning, possibly because one of them was believed to have had ties with Israel.

Within hours of the killing, security forces had found two men who admitted that they had committed the crimes and handed in their weapon. Their rooms were demolished later in the day, military sources said.

Police yesterday identified the victims as Muhammad Abu-Daga, 31, and Salem Barbach, 19.

Both men were in Abu Daga's office at 11 a.m. when they were shot.

Aloni again target of egg-throwers

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel spoke yesterday morning with Police Inspector-General David Kraus after Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement) was assaulted at Beit Agnon in Jerusalem on Tuesday evening during a "Journalists' Newspaper" programme.

This was announced at the beginning of yesterday's Knesset session by Deputy Speaker Eliezer Shostak, after Yossi Sarid (CRM) raised the question.

HOME NEWS

Coalition to press for racism amendment

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

The coalition yesterday told the religious parties that it would make every effort to enact before the Pessah recess the amendment to the Penal Code making incitement to racism a criminal offence, and it gave them until next week to suggest any alterations to the amendment.

The religious parties have said they will quit the coalition unless the amendment is altered, claiming that in its present form it equates racism with halacha, the Orthodox legal code.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim (Likud-Liberals) and Energy Minister

ter Moshe Shahal (Alignment) told the religious parties firmly that their claim had no basis. Nissim, himself Orthodox, is the son of a former chief rabbi.

The religious parties agreed to consult with two legal experts, commencing today, to try to work out a new draft of the amendment eliminating references to the Jewish faith. They agreed to submit this draft to the coalition executive next Monday.

Avner Shaki (National Religious Party), who will work closely with the two legal experts, said at the meeting with the coalition and the two ministers yesterday that he

would vote for a draft only if it contained no mention of Jewish faith and Jewish nationality.

Shahal, who appeared yesterday to be on very bad terms with the religious parties, after having spent months attempting to persuade them to join a narrow Alignment-led coalition, told them brusquely: "The religious parties don't care a fig about the anti-racist legislation. With you it's all political calculations."

Avraham Shapira (Aguda) said: "If I did not respect you, Shahal, I would get up at once and walk out, because of your attitude to the religious parties. This law will muzzle us

in Knesset debates. Where do you think we are? In Frankfurt?"

Coalition chairman Haim Kaufman (Likud) suggested that the religious parties ask a prominent Orthodox lawyer to negotiate with Nissim over a new draft.

Nissim, who apparently resented this approach, said: "I don't negotiate with private lawyers. I shall not let them interfere. Knesset members make laws, and not private legal experts."

Shapira, in a comment which did not seem to be addressed to anybody other than Herut men like Kaufman, said: "They had a convention and they all came out of it cuckoo."

Shaki agrees with Cohn

Eliminate 'racism' from anti-Kahane law

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — MK Avner Shaki of the National Religious Party agrees with retired Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn's proposal to eliminate the word "racism" from legislation aimed at stopping Kach and MK Meir Kahane.

Shaki, appointed by the religious parties to confer with jurists to find a way out of the controversy surrounding the proposed legislation, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he agrees that the word racism has no room in the bill now under discussion.

Cohn said yesterday that the anti-racism law should be reworded and simplified. He suggested that the law refer to incitement on grounds of race, and that the law not mention nationality or religion.

Shaki said that even before Cohn voiced his objections, he had come out against using the term racism and against the inclusion of religion and nationality in the legislation.

He maintains that to use the term racism in a law to stop Kahane would be to devalue the meaning of the term, "just as many devalue the term 'holocaust.' Racism is what the Jew-

ish people suffered, by being victimized for no fault of their own, merely because they were different and foreign."

To even suggest that racist thinking is possible in Judaism "is sacrilegious. There is no mention of such an ideology in the Jewish heritage. Judaism asserts that all men were created in God's image, and respect for all human beings is at the heart of the Jewish creed."

Shaki would prefer it if the law prohibited victimization of people because of their origin, colour and creed. "The law should not make it

possible for anyone to attack Judaism because, for example, it prohibits mixed marriages. On the left, some like this to apartheid. Nothing could be more preposterous, because any man, of any origin, colour or creed, can convert and marry any other Jew."

"The struggle between Jews and Arabs has nothing to do with racism, at least not from the Jewish side. This is a national conflict in which the Jews have only survival as their aim. If anyone is racist, it is the PLO, which murders Jews for no other reason than their birth."

Rosolio to be replaced as Solel Boneh board chairman

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Labour Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Labour Party caucus in the Knesset is due to meet next week to approve the replacement of Haim Rosolio as board chairman of Solel Boneh, the debt-ridden construction giant.

Both Rosolio and Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar hinted at the change during a press conference here yesterday. "I do not believe that the secretary need be chairman of the board in order to have control over the firms under him," Kessar said.

Rosolio's replacement comes

against a background of tension in the Histadrut leadership due to the company's financial crisis. However, Rosolio will remain secretary of Hivat Ha'Ovdim, the Histadrut's holding company, sources said.

Along with the change at the top, most of the members of Solel Boneh's board will be replaced. The new board will be reduced to 15 members.

Both Kessar and Rosolio stressed that the members of the board were being "rotated" in line with the Histadrut's new policy of changing and streamlining the boards of all the Hivat Ha'Ovdim concerns.

ISRAELI KILLED

(Continued from Page One)

The man suffered wounds from a bullet in his chest, and another bullet severed the main artery in his leg, Israeli sources in Cairo said late last night.

The Egyptian health minister visited the hospital last night and gave new instructions on treating the wounded. At 11:15 p.m. it was reported that one of the wounded was being operated on.

An Israeli medical team was due to fly to Cairo late last night to treat the wounded, and to bring them back to Israel as soon as possible.

Sharir, in Cairo to discuss tourism between Egypt and Israel, was visited at his hotel by Egyptian Tourism Minister Fuad Sultan an hour after the attack. Sultan conveyed the sympathies of his government and expressed the hope that Sharir would be able to hold his planned meetings with Egyptian tourism officials.

A short while later, Sharir and Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson visited the wounded in hospital.

The director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, and Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche were also in Cairo for talks on the Taba border dispute.

Sharir said at a press conference in Cairo last night that he did not intend to leave the country earlier than scheduled in the wake of the attack. He said he may cancel some of his scheduled tours, but would hold all planned meetings with Egyptian officials aimed at fostering tourism between the two countries.

Sharir said the attackers had intended to hurt relations between Israel and Egypt, but: "Our interest is peace and I therefore plan to continue the talks we had planned on tourism and I hope there will be an improvement in this area."

Sharir also said "I don't think one should make declarations that could cause damage" (in the relations between Israel and Egypt).

Israelis in Cairo were asked last night not to leave their hotels.

Informed sources said last night that security measures to protect Israeli citizens stationed in Cairo would be stepped up by both Israeli and Egyptian authorities.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last night that Israel views the attack with the utmost gravity, especially in view of the fact that it was the third time since the signing of the peace agreement that Israelis were murdered on Egyptian soil.

KNESSET

(Continued from Page One)

thought Eitan's request incredible. The presiding officer had no right to issue such an *ad hoc* rule, he said.

Edna Solodar (Alignment) agreed. There was no place for Eitan's motion, she said, adding: "We can't shut the mouths of television or the press."

Benny Shalita (Likud-Liberals) agreed with Eitan. Tichon should ban TV coverage for the rest of the sitting, he said.

Tichon announced that, although he agreed that there was some "distortion" in TV's behaviour, the proceedings would continue.

Sarid insisted that there was nothing "vexatious" about his motion. He said a dangerous norm had been introduced at the Herut convention. The violence demonstrated there could lead to anarchy, "and we saw here today how it spreads," he said. How could the government be turned over to "these hooligans — to those who wanted to bust up the Knesset sitting?" he asked. It would be a calamity, he said, if the rotation agreement were kept. "This is the Holy Land, not Disneyland," he said

in English.

The government's reply was delivered by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

What had happened to the noble Herut of old, he asked, he protested that he was not rejoicing in Herut's Herut of old, he asked. He protested the third time. Shalita called out: "Come off it! Say you agree to a full debate on Sarid's motion, and end it."

Shahal insisted: "Believe me, I say it with pain and sorrow. Has Herut really become a Mafia?" As he continued in this vein, Matza whipped out his handkerchief, ran over to the podium and handed it to Shahal so that he could wipe his tears.

Shahal continued for another minute or two, when Dov Shilansky (Likud-Herut) stood up and asked: "If you're really so sorry, why are you replying to this motion? Why not a Herut minister?"

At this point, Tichon felt he had lost control, and adjourned the sitting.

Shahal did not have a chance to deliver his speech in full, but a written version of it was distributed to reporters, and several Likud members were seen reading it. It included a sharp attack on Shamir, and implied that the rotation is now in question.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim told Israel Television that the response of a cabinet minister to a query of the kind Sarid raised was unacceptable.

Hussein to Egypt today for talks with Mubarak

CAIRO (Reuters). — King Hussein of Jordan is due in Egypt today for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, the government announced last night.

The talks, their first direct meeting since Mubarak went to Amman last October, were expected to focus on moves to revive the stalled Middle East peace process.

LIKUD MEET

(Continued from Page One)

ned to disrupt last week's convention well in advance. He expressed the hope that no deals would be made with Levy. Cohen-Avidov is a Sharon supporter, but he staunchly opposes Sharon's *ad hoc* alliance with Levy.

Levy's adviser Yitzhak Regev responded to the charges by calling Cohen-Avidov "a contemptible old party functionary and schemer."

Levy, he said, "has only pity for Cohen-Avidov."

Speaking on Israel Television's "Moked" programme last night, Levy said he perceived himself as Menachem Begin's successor, as he had implied at the convention, but not before the rotation and Shamir's full term as prime minister.

He insisted that he had a majority among convention delegates, and continually accused the Shamir camp of attempting to "subvert democratic process," that is, the

vote that would have shown Levy's strength.

Levy denied that he cast doubt on Shamir's leadership or on his planned role in the rotation, and said it was the vice premier's "anti-democratic" methods, not the man himself, that he was protesting against. He stressed he would do everything in his power to make the rotation go through.

He also said he was not seeking a "compromise" with Shamir, but wanted party institutions to reflect the balance of power.

Saying he was not afraid of Sharon's "growing" power, Levy added: "I think the assessments of his power are inflated." While denying adamantly that during the Lebanon war he had said that "Sharon will take us straight to hell," he referred to the cooperation between them as a temporary arrangement "for the sake of democracy."

Tickets to Eilat to be VAT-less

Bus and plane tickets to Eilat will be exempt from value-added tax starting April 1, the Treasury said yesterday. The ministry has already tabled the proposed change in the Knesset Finance Committee.

State Revenue Commissioner Yisrael Baron said yesterday that prices had dropped by 16 per cent in Eilat, and disposable income has increased by 10 per cent since the city was declared a free-trade area.

Chirac meets with potential ministers

PARIS (AP). — Conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, almost certain to be the country's next premier, held a series of meetings with potential ministers yesterday and said he would reply by this morning to President Francois Mitterrand's invitation to form a cabinet.

Chirac's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party, the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) and minor rightist candidates won 290 seats Sunday in elections for a new 577-seat national Assembly, and ended Socialist control of it.

Mitterrand, the Socialist president who has two years to go in his term,

met with Chirac for over two hours Tuesday to discuss the formation of a new government. It would be the first time in the 28-year history of the Fifth Republic that the president and premier are not of allied parties.

"I can tell you that there were no real problems with M. Francois Mitterrand," Chirac told reporters at his City Hall office yesterday, denying reports there had been several points of contention. "I will give my answer to the chief of state tonight or at the latest tomorrow morning."

Chirac was the only conservative leader called in by the President and obviously was Mitterrand's choice.



Mayor Teddy Kollek congratulates Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday as he is named an Honorary Citizen of Jerusalem. Looking on is Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel. (Rahamin Israel)

Arab village petitions for tax exemption

BY RON JOURARD

The Arab village of Fassuta, two kilometres from the border with Lebanon, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against alleged discrimination by the finance minister.

The petitioners, the head of the town council and two Fassuta inhabitants, asked the court to order the minister to add their village to the list of northern settlements eligible for income-tax exemptions under regulations passed last October.

The regulations, officially designated "tax exemptions for settlements on the northern border," are valid for three years. They allow northern residents to be taxed on only 90 per cent of their income.

All the eligible settlements are Jewish, Druse or Circassian.

However, four Arab villages in the area where the regulations apply are not included in the list. These are Fassuta and Gush Halav, which are mostly Christian, Me'ilya, which is entirely Christian, and Peki'in, which is mostly Druse.

The only Christian-Arab village in the list is Tarshiha, which shares a municipal council with the Jewish

settlement of Ma'alot. But even Tarshiha did not appear in the original list and was only added by an amendment in January.

The petitioners point out that Prime Minister Peres, on a visit to Fassuta last year, declared that it was a "front-line village in every respect." Two villagers, they point out, have been killed in terrorist attacks and others — including one of the petitioners — have been wounded. The Defence Ministry, they add, has even approved the construction of a bomb shelter for Fassuta.

The lawyers for the petitioners, Sha'ir Metaness and Mazen Qupty, argue that the omission of Fassuta from the list of eligible settlements is both "extremely unreasonable" and "discriminatory."

By granting the exemptions to the other 65 villages but not to Fassuta, they say, the finance minister is guilty of "the different treatment of equals."

The petitioners asked the court, alternatively, to declare the regulations invalid.

The petition is to be heard before a panel of three justices.

Eitan blasts Geva for calling war a failure

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Former aluf-mishne (colonel) Eli Geva's comment that the Lebanon war was a military failure has revived his bitter dispute with former chief of general staff Rafael Eitan, who yesterday said that Geva "had deserted his men and betrayed the IDF command."

Geva, who gave up his post as a brigade commander in July 1982 because he opposed plans to invade West Beirut, said on Tuesday that the war was a failure and that the public was being fed lies about it.

Speaking at a Hebrew University seminar, Geva said that whoever blamed former prime minister Menachem Begin for the war was "pulling the wool over the public's eyes."

Begin had told Geva that then chief of general staff Eitan had esti-

mated the death toll of an invasion of West Beirut at "less than 20," Geva said.

Speaking on Instructional Television's *Erev Hadash* programme yesterday, Eitan, now a Tebiya Knesset member, said: "If our whole army were made up of people like Eli Geva, we'd have no army and no state by now."

Eitan claimed that he had never assessed how many soldiers would be lost invading West Beirut, but "eight soldiers fell in the attack... as it actually took place."

In fact, Geva opposed invading West Beirut when it was still held by Palestinian and Syrian forces. The actual invasion took place only in mid-September 1982, after the Syrians and Palestinians had been evacuated.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

SARA LANDAU ז"ל

The funeral has already taken place.

Shiva at 36 Sderot Chen, Tel Aviv, will terminate Monday morning, March 24.

Daughter and son-in-law: Miriam and David Tannen, London

Grandchildren: Moshe and Cheryl Tannen, London
Vardi and Gavriel Jeidel, New York
Danny and Sylvie Tannen, London
Michelle and Moshe Gertner, London

Colleagues and friends at
The Department of Anesthesiology
Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem
extends sincere condolences
to Professor J.T. Davidson
on the passing of his brother

Prof. SHAMAI DAVIDSON

We are with you in this hour of sorrow.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved
mother, mother-in-law and grandmother

DWORA REICHNER ז"ל

Daughter and son-in-law: Cecile and Abe Wechsler
Grandchildren: Naftali, Deena, Eli, Binyamin

The funeral will take place today, March 20, 1986, at 11 a.m. at Savyon Cemetery.

Manja and Morris Leigh
send their deepest condolences to

Prof. Ephraim Katzir
on the passing of his dear wife

NINA

The Tel Aviv University Trust of Great Britain
mourns the passing of

NINA KATZIR

and extends its sincere condolences to

Prof. Ephraim Katzir
on his sad loss

On the occasion of the *shloshim*
after the passing of the late

MAIER ASHER

The Government Press Office
wishes to honour the memory of one of Israel's
most respected foreign correspondents.
May his memory be blessed.

To Freyda Roth

Our deepest sympathy on the passing of your

Father ז"ל

IBM Israel

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

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Arianne Katcz Piano Competition

The public is invited to a concert by the Rubin Academy Symphony Orchestra and Philip Lurie, winner of the competition.

Conductor: Hans-Dieter Resch, Rector of the Music Academy, Frankfurt.

Programme: Stravinsky, Concerto in D
Mozart, Piano Concerto in C Major, K.467
Schubert, Symphony No. 6

Thursday, March 20, 1986, 2.00 p.m., Bar-Shira Auditorium, Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv.

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Threat of black bathing beaches

Hadera station coal dust drifts north

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
HAIFA. — After five years of sedentary existence on the sea-bed around the pier of the Hadera power station, the coal granules fell into the water during unloading are moving north.

"Until a short time ago there were no signs of a massive movement of granules towards the shore. Only a few were washed up," Dr. Avraham Gollik, of the Oceanographic Research Institute, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"But in the past few weeks something changed. We have discovered granules, from one to seven centimetres in size, washed up on the beaches up to 1.5 kilometres north of the pier, in a visible, black concen-

tration at Sdot Yam."

Gollik, together with architect Sarit Averbach and Shaul Amir of the Technion, have been monitoring the movement of the coal dust on the sea-bed for the past two years. The study is funded by the Israel Electric Corporation, which built the Hadera station and its coal pier some five years ago. It now uses three million tons of imported coal annually.

"It is not clear yet why for five years the coal granules stayed in place, some 20 metres down," said Gollik, who read a paper on the subject at the Technion this week.

When the problem of coal for Hadera arose a decade ago, Haifa politicians launched a successful campaign against the plan to unload

it in Haifa. They scared the public with sombre pictures of black bathing beaches.

At the time, this reporter quoted an oceanographic institute scientist's prediction that it would be safer to unload the coal in the enclosed Haifa harbour than at an open pier off Hadera, where the currents would be bound to wash it north, bringing to Haifa beaches the pollution the politicians were threatening.

Gollik said that the coal granules were only an "esthetic nuisance" at this point. Unlike tar on the beaches, the coal doesn't stick to skin or to swimsuits. The granules could be fairly easily removed by the beach-cleaning machines that also remove the far more troublesome tar.

Official motorcade for hassidim

Habad marks Rambam fete in Egypt

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Among the scores of celebrations organized last week by the Habad Hassidim to mark the completion of their annual study of the Rambam's *Mishne Torah*, the festivities in Cairo were not the largest. But they may well have been the most remarkable.

Besides taking place in the Ben Ezra Synagogue, where Maimonides himself prayed and studied for the last 39 years of his life, it was probably the only celebration to have been preceded by a motorcycle escort for the participants. The motorcade, complete with sirens and guards, brought the delegation of 14 visiting Hassidim from their hotel to the synagogue in the city's old Jewish quarter.

The Egyptians — probably with the recent disturbances in mind — provided the escort primarily for security reasons, says Eilat Chief Rabbi

Yosef Hecht, who led the group to Egypt. But he also views it as a mark of respect. "We felt to some extent that the guards were also honouring us as religious figures," he says.

Hecht took advantage of his close personal contacts with the Egyptian consul in Eilat, Hassan Issa, to arrange the visit. The Lubavitcher Rebbe had instructed his followers this year to arrange celebrations wherever there had once been a Jewish community. Hecht told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

In Egypt, there were festivities in Alexandria as well as Cairo. As is customary when completing such a cycle of study, the participants read the last chapters of the work and then began again with the first chapter. So that everyone could understand, the proceedings were conducted in Hebrew, Arabic, English and French.

The Ben Ezra Synagogue has been

under repair for many years, but it was cleaned and decorated by members of the local Jewish community, and a few minutes before the delegation was due to come through the narrow alleyways that lead to the building, police removed the vendors and their stands. The head of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, who is responsible for the synagogue, addressed the gathering with a few sentences in Hebrew.

The Egyptians in general exhibited a healthy interest, asking the Hassidim about their dress, their prayers and their religious life.

The Israeli ambassador in Cairo and the Israeli consul in Alexandria thanked the delegation for coming. But for Hecht and his colleagues it was clearly the joy of bringing this Jewish experience to the few score elderly people who comprise the remnants of Egyptian Jewry that was the important point.

Malamud's Jew spoke Singer's Yiddish, not Portnoy's complaint

By S.T. MERAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bernard Malamud, who died yesterday a few weeks short of his 72nd birthday, was invariably yoked with Saul Bellow and Philip Roth in a tenuous triumvirate of "American Jewish writers." A label that none of the principals was especially fond of. Bellow largely keeps aloof from other writers, and Roth is on record as resenting being part of a "Hart, Schaffner and Marx" of American letters.

Malamud himself lived quietly in Vermont, where he also taught at Bennington College, and was little seen in literary New York or at conferences of either a Jewish or literary character. He attracted none of the notoriety generated by Bellow's Nobel Prize or by Roth's outrageous humour.

Malamud, of course, garnered his share of honours and fame (two National Book Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, etc.), and two of his novels (*The Natural* and *The Fixer*) were made into films. But perhaps because of the kinds of people he frequently wrote about — the Yiddish-speaking immigrant class in which he grew up — and because of his particular distinction with the short story form, it might be more appropriate to think of Malamud in terms of Isaac Bashevis Singer than to class him with either Bellow or Roth.

In the late 1960s, for example, when Roth was making his splash with *Portnoy's Complaint*, Malamud published *The Fixer*, a novel based on the Mendel Beilis blood libel case that was notable for its eerie evocation of pre-Revolution Russia. And while Bellow chronicled the often amusing agonies of American Jews in high social and academic circles, Malamud returned again and again to the underclass Jews of his youth in Brooklyn. The best example of these Jews is Morris Bober, the poor, pious grocer in Malamud's enduring early novel, *The Assistant*.

To be sure, not all of Malamud's work explores Jewish matters. His first novel, *The Natural*, is about baseball. The short stories that make up *Pictures of Fidelman* are less about a painter who happens to be Jewish than about an American artist living in Rome (as Malamud himself once did on a one-year fellowship). The 1979 novel, *Dublin's Liver*, about a professor who is writing a life of D.H. Lawrence, is chiefly a meditation on the art of biography.

But Malamud's most memorable work does indeed concern Jews. If any common thread can be found in his writing, it is probably the theme of the Jew struggling to maintain his dignity and identity in the non-Jewish world. In *The Assistant*, the little grocer loses his livelihood to supermarket competition and his



Bernard Malamud

daughter to a gentile, only to reap some triumph when the gentile converts and takes over the burdens of family and store. Yaakov Bok may well be destroyed in *The Fixer*, but his Jewishness preserves him from being defeated. (Interestingly, Malamud does not hesitate to borrow Christian symbols in both of these tales of martyrdom.) Similarly, the theme of the Jew among gentiles figures prominently in *A New Life*. Malamud's novel about academia, and in *The Tenants*, a novel that deals with Jewish-black relations in New York. And the theme surfaces repeatedly in Malamud's numerous short stories, the best of which appear in *The Magic Barrel* and *Idiot's First*.

A *Collected Stories* appeared last year and confirmed the opinion of many that Malamud was more a master of short fiction than he was of the novel (especially true in the light of his last extended work, *God's Grace*, which was widely regarded as one of the literary disappointments of 1982).

Malamud's short fiction is noted for its artistic economy, dazzling imagination and warm humour. Fantasies like "The Jewbird" and "The Magic Barrel" are widely anthologized; "A Summer's Reading" is included in the English literature material for Israel's matriculation exam; "Angel Levine" was made into a film. The short stories alone placed Malamud on a par with a Nobel laureate like I.B. Singer.

Flick destroyed incriminating documents

By WLADIMIR STRUMINISKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

BONN. — Flick, the giant West German conglomerate, tried to destroy information documenting its role in the Third Reich. The German Jewish weekly *Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung* reported in its latest issue.

The paper said the Hamburg Documentation Centre for Research

'Palestinians and Israelis have missed many boats'

Simha Dinitz is not happy about what he regards as the succession "of boats that the Palestinians have missed." He views the present situation as a "tragedy for all of us, Israelis and Palestinians." This reflects the fact, he says, that the Palestinians and their leaders have, over the past 40 years, continuously missed opportunities to realize, at least partially, their national ambitions.

Dinitz, a Labour MK and former Israeli ambassador to Washington (from 1973 to 1978, "including the Yom Kippur War and the Camp David agreements," he likes to say), doesn't believe Israel is mainly responsible for the existence of the Palestinian problem.

He blames chiefly the succession of Palestinian leaders, who always adopted "radical positions" and rejected compromises. "Those who want to grab everything, end up grabbing nothing," he says, referring to Palestinian policy over the past decades. He compares this "all or nothing approach of the PLO" to the Herut Party's approach on the Israeli side.

He dismisses the notion that there has been any real change in mainstream PLO policy towards Israel. Changes that have apparently been adopted are "tactical rather than strategic," he says. He concedes that several Fatah leaders in the past have "tried to express a different approach — but they [Issam Sartawi, Sa'id Hamami, etc.] are no longer with us. And they weren't liquidated by us."

Dinitz says he is for continuous "self-examination. I don't believe we are as pure as the driven snow. But I am against attributing everything bad that happens to ourselves."

Dinitz believes that one of the major Palestinian "misses" was in 1978-

IN PERSON
BENNY MORRIS

Simha Dinitz

79, when the PLO and Palestinians in the territories failed to take up then prime minister Menachem Begin's commitment to "autonomy" for the territories within the framework of the Camp David agreements. Dinitz says that Begin "unknowingly agreed to formulations that, if played cleverly by the Palestinians, would have laid the foundation for a Palestinian state."

Dinitz doesn't sound optimistic when speaking of the near future. He stresses that the gap between the minimum conditions Israel would accept in a peace settlement and the minimum Jordan and the Palestinians would accept is so great as to make agreement on the main issues impossible. Hence, the current focus must be on triggering a negotiating process rather than on finding possible solutions.

Dinitz has made the transition from top civil servant to politician very smoothly. After finishing up in Washington (aged 49), he served for five years as vice president of the Hebrew University before he was elected to the Knesset in 1984.

Reform rabbis perform mixed marriages

'I don't want the Jews to die out'

By TOM TUGEND
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LOS ANGELES. — "I officiate at mixed marriages for the same reason that the Orthodox won't. I simply don't want the Jewish people to die out," explains a veteran Los Angeles Reform rabbi.

The rabbi, whom we shall call Blau because he does not want his real name used, is among the estimated 40 per cent of Reform rabbis in the greater Los Angeles area who are willing to conduct weddings between Jewish and gentile partners.

About an equal percentage of Jews here are believed to take non-Jewish spouses. If the officiating rabbis of these marriages share a single conviction, it is that, given America's social freedom, and especially California's, there is no way of preventing the couples from getting married.

"A mixed couple will approach a rabbi after they have set the wedding date," says Blau. "If the rabbi then sends them away, we lose not just the gentile partner but also the Jew, as well as their descendants."

"Our choice," he adds, "is whether we live in America as a people whose core is a community of faith or whether we die out in the spirit of halacha."

There is general agreement on this basic point; however, the conditions under which a rabbi will marry a mixed couple vary widely.

"Each rabbi's decision is an intensely personal and difficult one," says Rabbi Leonard R. Thal, the area's chief Reform administrator as director of the Pacific Southwest Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC).

Many rabbis will insist that the couple pledge to bring up their children as Jews and send them to religious schools. Others demand that the gentile spouse take an intensive course of Jewish studies and drop any church affiliations. Some will co-officiate at a ceremony with clergy of other faiths; others refuse to do so.

A curious fact observed by Thal and others is that, in almost all cases, it is the older, more seasoned rabbis who are willing to perform mixed marriages, while younger rabbis are not.

Thal notes that there are a number of rabbis who earlier in their careers declined to officiate and later changed their minds. "I cannot remember a single case when the reverse was true," he adds.

Rabbi Henry Front of Temple Beth David says he once opposed mixed weddings but reversed his position after teaching an introductory Judaism class attended by many Jews and non-Jews preparing for marriage.

"After a year's experience with hundreds of these people, I realized that my former position was in

error," Front says. "We live in an age of romantic love and people are going to get married regardless of who marries them."

Eight Reform rabbis in Southern California are women. All are fairly young. Thal believes that none of them will officiate at mixed marriages. "The deciding factor seems to be age rather than gender," he says.

It is not uncommon for congregational rabbis of all denominations, who will not officiate at mixed marriages themselves, to look the other way when their cantors or assistant rabbis perform the services. Another alternative for non-Reform rabbis, says Blau, is to perform "quickie" 24-hour conversions of the gentile partners, so that both spouses are formally Jewish when they marry.

Blau discusses such practices matter-of-factly, but he does not approve of his Reform colleagues who charge more for performing mixed marriages than regular ones. On the other hand, he is proud that many of the mixed couples he marries join his congregation, and that a high percentage of the gentile partners later convert fully to Judaism.

There is a general belief, though no hard statistics, that the rate of intermarriages — and the proportion of Reform rabbis who will officiate at them — is higher in California than in the rest of the country.

Chief Justice Shamgar criticizes 'political strikes'

Chief Justice Meir Shamgar yesterday condemned "political strikes" as an illegitimate weapon in a democracy, as the High Court of Justice upheld a National Labour Court ruling that confirmed the firing of 170 Druse teachers in the Golan. The teachers struck for five months in 1982 to protest against the extension of Israeli law to the Golan.

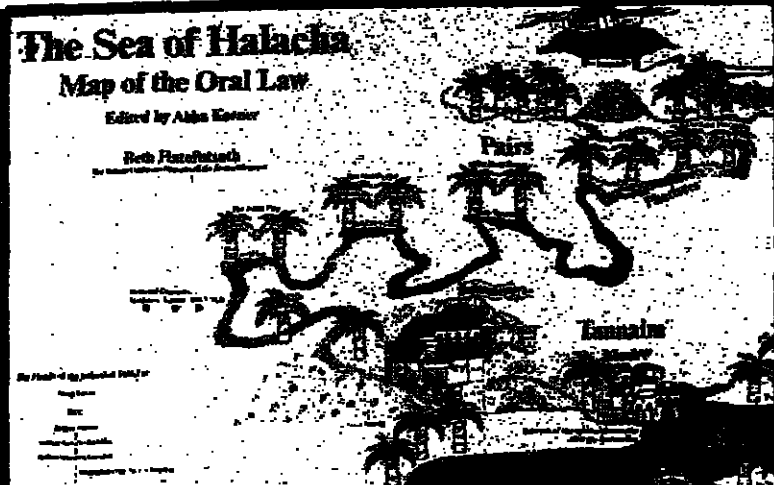
As a result of the strike, the

Education Ministry notified the teachers that they were regarded as having resigned from their jobs. Two of the teachers took their case to the Regional Labour Court, which ruled that their connection with their employer, the ministry, had not been severed as a result of the strike.

When the National Labour Court overturned this decision as a result of

an appeal by the state, the two teachers petitioned the High Court of Justice.

In the decision handed down yesterday, Shamgar said that, because the teachers had resorted to a political strike to impose the will of a small group on the state, the government was no longer bound by its obligation to them as their employer. (Itm)



A beautiful full colour replication of the symbolic map of the same name on display at Beth Hatefutsoth, The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora. It traces the complete chronological development and diversifications of the Oral Law to present day Halacha, graphically identifying the outstanding events, personalities, places, and trends. A superb instrument for teaching adults and children. Edited by Abba Kovner, design and graphics by Tehila Har-Gil, published by Rolnik-Keter Ltd. Size 66.5cm x 94cm. Available in rolled poster form, suitable for framing or as folded poster with detailed reference material printed on the back. Price NIS 10.— each.

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The T.V. consumer programme "Kolbotek" exposed cases of clients being defrauded at a number of gas stations throughout the country. The "Kolbotek" team did not work alone. They worked in full cooperation with "Paz", "Delek" and "Sonol" companies which grapple with this problem all year round. Furthermore, the oil companies even hired private detectives to help "Kolbotek" discover those guilty and have them exposed.

The three oil companies have invested huge resources in the installation of modern and advanced gas pumps so that you, the driver, can receive reliable and efficient service. The pump display shows exactly how much gas is being pumped into your tank, and exactly how much you have to pay for it.

But this is not enough.

We suggest that in true consumer fashion, you get out of your car, and keep an eye open.

- Check which pump is being used to fill your car, and whether it is the right octane.
- Make certain that both the liter and the price displays are set at 0 (zero).
- Check the number of liters and the sum appearing on the pump displays when your tank has been filled.
- Pay only the sum that appears on the display.
- If any doubts arise, demand the interference of the gas station manager.

We are doing our very best to ensure that you are properly served at every gas station. However, for your own sake we suggest that you keep alert and check.

Now it's up to you.

Thank you for your attention.



Association of Agents
and Petrol Station Owners
in Israel

B-G's right-hand man



Katriel Katz

THERE AND THEN / Sraya Shapiro

THE GOVERNOR of the Bank of Israel the other day gave an interview to a television reporter on what happened at the cabinet session at which the reduction of bank interest was decided. Anybody opposed? the reporter asked. Yes, the governor said, and named the dissenting member.

"How can a government survive if everything its members say is public domain?" Katriel Katz asks, boiling with indignation. He was cabinet secretary when Ben-Gurion was prime minister. Indeed, it was during his term of office that Ben-Gurion resigned over the Lavon affair.

A cabinet meeting was then an intimate gathering, Katz says. Only cabinet ministers were allowed to take part, excluding even the deputy ministers. The only persons other than ministers admitted were the government secretary and the stenographer.

"How can a cabinet do any serious business with 25 ministers, so many deputies and the experts and aides they take in? When Ben-Gurion asked an expert to testify before the cabinet - it was normally only the chief of general staff or the governor of the Bank of Israel - they were asked to leave even before the ministers began discussing the issues involved," Katz says.

God knows cabinet meetings could be tense. Occasionally, voices were raised. "But swear?" Katz shrugs a shoulder in disgust. And he smiles. He always smiles when he is angry. Always did. A cold fish, Katriel.

He smiled and became red in the face when he was sent home from school by the fulminating Dr. Ben-Zion Mossinson, the Herzliya Gymnasium principal, after a short item appeared in *Davar* criticizing the school on some count - I think it was because it had resolved not to allow political youth movements to draft members among the students. The item was signed by initials, but there were no secrets then in Little Tel Aviv. The whole class took Katriel's side and demonstrated by pouring out onto Rothschild Boulevard near the Rubanenko soda fountain. Eventually, the matter was settled.

Twenty years later, Katz became the first IDF spokesman. Later, he was Israel's charge d'affaires to Hungary and minister plenipotentiary to Poland, and the last ambassador to serve in Moscow. Today, retired, he is active on the board of the Magnes Press.

WHAT ENRAGED Ben-Gurion most were leaks to the press. (He resigned several times when matters discussed in the cabinet found their way in to newspaper columns, such as the news that Moshe Dayan, then the chief of general staff, was authorized to go to Germany).

With the Lavon affair, leaks became an institution. "However, it was not the custom, even then, for cabinet ministers to answer reporters' questions while emerging from a cabinet meeting," Katz recalls.

"What the ministers do, generally, is to repeat in public what they said behind closed doors. The picture the public gets is obviously twisted, a propaganda image. Very irresponsible."

The practice, Katz believes, took root under the premiership of Menachem Begin. Not his hero, Begin, never was.

Was it because of the leaks that Ben-Gurion resigned? Katz shrugs his shoulders. "I don't know. He was very upset with Lavon and his campaign. Possibly, had he been younger, he would have treated the whole issue differently. But he was losing patience. Ben-Gurion thought in the future tense. The coalition, never a smooth-running body, was dragging behind, hampering his work. So one day he must have said enough was enough and retired to Sde Boker."

"He was a great believer in personal example. Ben-Gurion was. He hoped a mass movement would follow him and make the Negev blossom."

It might be appropriate to recall here an interview Ben-Gurion gave this writer shortly before the general elections in which he led the Rafi list. The interview was about Ben-Gurion's trip to South Africa on a fund-raising mission, and took place in his library on Sde Boker.

Ben-Gurion answered the reporter's questions as an actor going through his *spiel*. And then he turned interrogator: Would Rafi succeed? For if not, the country was in a great danger from its present leadership! He refused to elaborate.

What was a mere reporter supposed to tell the founder of the State? One could remind him, of course, that he had extolled the prominence of a party in conducting the nation's affairs. He himself decried the evils of the proportional representation which encouraged irresponsible splinter groups.

Was he indoctrinated by his close associates into believing that the nation would be swept in his favour on the strength of past exploits, that the nation would trust his guidance in the future? If he believed so, it was Ben-Gurion's most tragic mistake. Anyhow, the reporter kept silent.

But Ben-Gurion probably was as sceptical as his interviewer. He knew miracles never happen unless they are painstakingly prepared.

AFTER TWO consecutive years of drought, farmers throughout the south were hoping for rain this winter and, for a while, it looked as if their prayers would be answered. But in the end, despite several good showers, total precipitation was half of the annual average. But while not enough rain fell for the wheat, which is short and pitiful, useful only for grazing, the fields are ablaze with multi-coloured flowers.

Just a short walk from my house in Beersheba, in a neglected spot between developed plots of land, I've counted at least 10 different species of flowers. Even my backyard has been invaded by several interesting, flowering weeds. I know that I must remove them, but I want to wait a while, treasuring the beauty before it becomes a burden.

One person who seems to know exactly when to plant, remove or transpire is Ruhama Smilansky, the gardener at the Institutes for Applied Research of Beersheba's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Smilansky has been with the institutes for 15 years, the last three of which have been devoted to creating and taking care of its spectacular garden. The garden is both an aesthetic showplace and an open laboratory for the introduction of new species to the desert.

"I wouldn't want to tend a garden of thorns and cacti," says Smilansky, a pair of shears dangling from her belt. "People must feel comfortable, so I add plants from the north as well. My approach is one that combines the science of introducing new species to this arid area with the aesthetics of a garden that surrounds the workplace of 150 people."

At first, Smilansky worked at the now-defunct botanical garden. "Beersheba's main thoroughfare, Sderot Hanesim, now runs through

Desert blooms

NEGEV NOTEBOOK

Liora Moriel

what was the botanical garden. We fought long and hard to preserve the green heart of the city, but lost," she recalls.

Once Smilansky took over the landscaping of the institutes, what was once just a casual splatter of green became a large, outdoor botanical garden.

Rhoda Boyko, who donated a statue to the university to be placed near the institute her husband funded, was so impressed with the garden that she gave the money to buy a tractor-propelled lawnmower. Previously, Smilansky had to mow the lawn manually. "When I applied for the job, I was given the run-around for a year, because they didn't think this was work for a woman," she says with a smile. "As far as I'm concerned, trimming the lawn is not the best way to utilize a gardener's skills, an assistant can do it and usually does. At first I did a lot of things alone and in the end, when they saw how beautiful the garden was, they hired a worker to help me."

The garden now has many planters, with a surprising display of colours, especially at midday. Flowers from the north intermingle with desert species to form a beautiful live mosaic. Visitors come to share the wonder every day.

"This winter was particularly difficult," says Smilansky. "Each flower

reacted differently. A very strange year. The germinations this year deserve to be studied scientifically - nothing was on time. The wheat near my house bore fruit in February, very very early. A flower that I intended to plant all over the entrance didn't make it at all and in the end I had to make do with a few flowers in a small pot instead."

BIRDS MAKE more frequent stops at the institutes since Smilansky took over and early this month, a flock of storks covered the sky from end to end as it passed over the garden. "Someone looked at his watch and said: 'March 5, 1986 - the day spring began.'"

Spring in the south is awe inspiring. A recent trip to the Yehoram area brought the wonder home as we went in search of the Negev iris. We saw tulips, small and wonderful, then a few poppies reddening the hills. Walking slowly, savouring every plant and every flower, we saw so many species that we stopped numbering them after a while. We wandered over to the trees atop the hills and noticed that they were swimming in a sea of daisies. It was a magical sight.

But we were in search of the Negev iris, endemic to this area, and we were not successful in spotting it. We saw its leaves, even some bulbs, but no flowers. We walked, we



A Negev iris

(Liora Moriel)

drove slowly, we walked by again. Nothing. Then, one of us sighted the famous purple flower. We huddled close, took pictures, and treasured the solitary find.

Satisfied but unsated, we went on - and suddenly someone said: "Here!" And another Negev iris was spotted, then another. We had uncovered a trove of them on the hill. And now we had our fill.

Further south in the Arava, the farmers say that this year the rains fell in two instalments, so that although the precipitation was aver-

age, the timing of it made a bounty of flowers bloom in the fields. I travel down to see them, unbelieving. And a short walk reveals - flowers! dozens of flowers materialize out of the cracked earth. So many hues, such amazing variety, with such an unassuming backdrop. From the road, only one species of yellow flower is visible; few would stop for it. Yet a minute's walk reveals an earth rich with spring. As Ruhama Smilansky says of her garden, "Anything is possible." In the desert, this is a fact.

Mehta gives his all

MUSIC

THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA - Zubin Mehta conducting with Shlomo Mintz, violin (Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, March 15). Mozart: Concerto No. 4 in D Major for violin and orchestra, K.218. Bruckner: Symphony No. 5 in C Minor.

THIS CONCERT seemed strangely unbalanced between this rather lighthearted and relatively short Mozart concerto in the first half and the huge, 70-minute-long Bruckner symphony in the second. Although Shlomo Mintz tried to emphasize the more serious aspects of the concerto and reached real musical significance whenever possible, this effort seemed completely overshadowed by the colossal sound of the Bruckner.

Maestro Mehta, inspired by the occasion of his 50th birthday coinciding with the 25th anniversary of his IPO debut, seemed to be at his best. He plunged himself with all his heart, his temperament and emotional capacity into the huge masses

of Bruckner's sounds and never ending statements. If the whole of Bruckner's output may be defined as a huge monolithic statement, his eighth symphony is the most monolithic of all. However, Mehta succeeded in maintaining tension throughout the four movements, making the last movement the most exciting of all.

Mehta showed full understanding of Brucknerian symphonic structure and he never loosened the design. The first movement's development section expanded without ever losing its sense of direction. The wonderful andante sounded rich and spacious, its orchestral sound swelling into mighty upheavals evoking nothing less than real awe. The performance seemed really to have created a unique and touching occasion, with Mehta giving everything he was able and an orchestra responding with love, dedication and true admiration.

BENJAMIN BAR-AM

Music for the young

SOME 2,800 youngsters from all over the country are to be bused to Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium (March 23), to hear a special, free concert presented by the Jeunesses Musicales of Israel in cooperation with the Community Centres Association. The young audience is to hear the orchestra of the Tel Aviv Music Academy together with the Young Philharmonic under the baton of a guest from Germany, Prof. Hans-Dieter Resch, with newly immigrated pianist Philipp Luria (originally from England), in music by

Schubert, Mozart and Partos. Members of the Jeunesses Musicales prepared their audience beforehand by explaining the works to be heard at their respective places of residence. Yitzhak Steiner, the well known pianist, conductor, musical commentator who features in the *Allegro* TV quiz show, will introduce and comment on the programme.

This is the first of an impressive series prepared by the Jeunesses Musicales, which has taken a new lease of life since Dr. Meir Wiesel took over some time ago.

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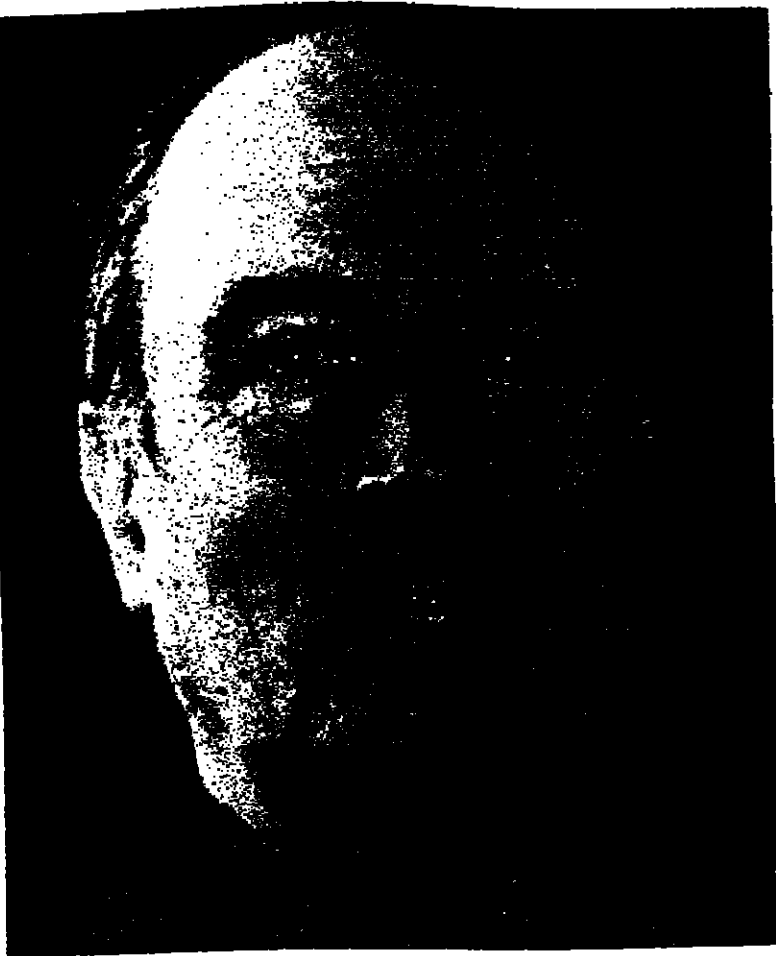
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THE WORLD AT LARGE



French President Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac

(Sven Nackstrand, Andre Bruttman)

THE ODD COUPLE

Taking up the reins of power in Paris are two very different men. Correspondent Paul Chutkow reports

TALK about strange bedfellows. For his partner in the new French experience of "cohabitation" government, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has chosen what would seem to be a most incompatible son-in-law: Paris Mayor and Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac.

In both style and ideas, France's new ruling couple could not appear more ill-matched. President Mitterrand is aloof, reflective, above the fray, an idealist comfortable in the intellectual world of great ideas, a master political tactician distinctly ill at ease in the daily push and shove of power politics. A prolific writer and accomplished political historian, Francois Mitterrand is both a canny political survivor and the recognized architect of the long march to power of the Socialist Party. His ambitions at last became reality, and for the past five years Mitterrand has seemed perfectly at home in the ornate, remote splendour of the Elysee Palace.

Next to Mitterrand's appearance of a philosopher-king, Jacques Chirac looks like a combat general. Blunt, aggressive, the action-oriented realist with his own presidential ambitions, Chirac plunges

into the political fray, clearly invigorated by the roar of the grease paint and the smell of the crowd. And of power.

He can talk knowledgeably about Chinese theatre, and like so many in France's leadership class, he finished his education at the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration. But parlour intellectual discourse does not quite fit Mr. Chirac. His strength as a political tactician rests not in any grand vision, but in his boundless energy and evident organizational strength. Since 1977, Chirac has seemed perfectly at home in the day-to-day grind of decision-making at Paris City Hall.

IN TERMS of political ideas, Mitterrand champions social justice, active concern for the Third World, a French society built on openness, cultural and social renovation, and not just tolerance but active support for all minorities in French society.

Mitterrand came to power in 1981 with strong support for traditional socialist central planning, and his government nationalized banks, major industrial groups and set about pumping federal funds into job creation. Two years later, the Socialists

scrapped much of that for old-fashioned conservative austerity and industrial renovation. In foreign policy he has been strongly favourable to the NATO alliance, even when he had four Communists in his first cabinet, and he made an historic gesture by becoming the first French president to visit Israel.

In contrast, Chirac champions law and order at home, an active French foreign policy in Africa, and a sweeping economic liberalism along the lines of that practised in the U.S. by President Ronald Reagan.

Like all his partners in the new conservative coalition, Chirac has denounced the anti-immigrant themes of National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen, who scored a surprise victory with nearly 10 per cent of the votes and 35 seats in the next National Assembly. Chirac has signed an oath not to govern with Le Pen, but the conservatives have also campaigned for a stiffer stance against illegal immigration.

As prime minister from 1974 to 1976, under president Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Chirac was a chief architect of French support in the Middle East for Iraq, including the

controversial decision to transfer nuclear technology to Baghdad.

As opposite as Mitterrand and Chirac appear in both style and ideas, neither partner in this new couple is a stranger to political and ideological accommodation. Mitterrand, after all, served as a minister in a post-war cabinet of Gen. Charles de Gaulle. Similarly, his shift from traditional socialist economics, under prime minister Pierre Mauroy, to the belt-tightening and incentives for industry, under prime minister Laurent Fabius, never appeared to be a cause for much soul-searching for the president. Nor did his evolution into a strong advocate for deployment of U.S.-made Cruise and Pershing missiles during Europe's great missile debate in the early 1980s.

Similarly, Chirac was formerly a strong advocate of heavy state direction for the economy, and when he was prime minister, controls on wages and prices had not yet been limited. That came only in 1978 under premier Raymond Barre, one of France's most respected economists and earliest free-market advocates. Accused by the left of going too far in his support for "law of the

jungle" capitalism during the campaign, Chirac modified his initial calls for a rapid denationalization and called for a go-slow approach instead. In recent weeks, he has toned down his "knock-'em dead" campaign approach with calls for a general non-partisan rallying of all Frenchmen for the good of the nation — this in obvious anticipation of "cohabitation."

SO THE stage is set for these two unlikely partners to form a political marriage, at least until President Mitterrand's mandate ends in 1988. Already there are reports of friction. The two men met at the Elysee Palace on Monday evening for over two hours, and instead of immediately accepting the president's invitation to form a government, Chirac took the exceptional decision to ask for time for reflection and consultation.

This produced a flood of rumours in the capital that this fragile partnership was already being tested by a show of will over the precise division of powers on defence and foreign policy. Another potential issue for hurrying domestic pots and pans may come over President Reagan's strategic defence initiative. President Mitterrand has strong reservations. Chirac is a strong supporter of SDI.

The only true rejoicing at this uniquely French wedding party are the attendant journalists and constitutional experts, now sipping champagne in the glare of the television cameras. Because this "cohabitation" is a first in France's Fifth Republic, and because no one seems quite sure how the constitution's apportioning of powers between president and prime minister will actually work in practice, journalists and lawyers are spouting a flood of palaver, which is deafening even by French standards. Even old press conferences of Gen. De Gaulle are being trotted out for analysis of how this still-dominant figure intended his hand-tailored constitution to fit the Fifth Republic.

Amid all the conflicting views of how the new couple will end up dividing who does the dishes, who takes out the garbage and who disciplines the children, a tidy little formula suggested by the wise old Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas, a friend of both partners in the new marriage, stands out for its elegant simplicity.

"The president presides, and the government governs," Chaban-Delmas is reported to have counselled. It is a formula that appears likely to appeal to both Mitterrand and Chirac. The philosopher-king will preside, the combat general will govern, and these two seemingly incompatible partners, having learned the art of compromise in earlier marriages, may just turn out to make a surprisingly complementary pair of political bedfellows.



Ronald and Nancy Reagan

(Camera Press)

A daughter's revealing novel

By SIMON HOGGART/Washington

ONE of the most poignant sights in America is that of a 33-year-old novelist hawking her new book around the chat-show circuit.

The new writer is Patti Davis — born Patti Reagan, daughter of the president and first lady of the U.S. Her novel is autobiographical, and what makes the book and the publicity tour so sad is that they are clearly part of a final attempt to get in touch with her parents.

Miss Davis (she uses her mother's maiden name professionally) says that the book, *Home Front*, is "a blend of fact and fiction." Readers can hardly be blamed for thinking that the former greatly outweighs the latter.

It's the story of a young woman growing up at the same time as Miss Davis, whose father becomes governor of California and then president. One Washington reviewer said that the fictional father sounded so much like Ronald Reagan that it was an "uncanny" experience to read the words.

The Reagans first learned about the novel from the press. They have now read it, and according to friends were deeply hurt. Publicly the president has restricted himself to short off-the-cuff comments, calling the novel "an interesting fiction." His belief in the sanctity of market forces emerged at a brief informal press conference when he said he hoped his daughter would make "a lot of money" from the book. This seems extremely likely.

Although Patti Davis has appeared on innumerable chat shows during the past few days, two important bookings were mysteriously cancelled at the last minute: *The Merv Griffin Show* and *The Tonight Show*. In the absence of Johnny Carson, this has been presented by Joan Rivers, the comedienne whose body movements and patter evoke a turkey in a ball gown.

The White House has firmly denied that either the president or Nancy Reagan asked the shows to cut Patti out, although both the hosts — Joan Rivers in particular — are friends of the family. The obvious explanation seems the most likely: that the two presenters thought the work too hurtful.

THE NAIVETE of its style suggests that the book is probably more hurtful to the Reagans than their daughter intended. The couple have a bathetic utterance for every occasion. On arriving in the White House for the inauguration, Nancy's first remark is that she just can't wait to redecorate.

There is a grisly description of their remonstrations when they discover that their daughter has been experimenting with drugs: "The re-

mainder of the lecture was a blur of words and *Reader's Digest* prophecies."

To the great distress of her parents, the Patti figure becomes a peace activist. She hardly troubles to hide her hatred and contempt for the right-wing politicians with whom her father surrounds himself, and who are all depicted as greedy bores.

There are useful insights, too, into the absolute sincerity with which Reagan holds his opinions. In the middle of yet another argument with her father about Vietnam, she reflects: "I had heard it all before. The essence was that America was always right; that her soldiers only go where they need to go in the name of freedom, democracy and God."

More than a decade later, this perfectly encapsulates the president's view on Central America. IT IS Nancy Reagan who is most woundingly displayed. She appears absurdly anxious to devote her entire life to her husband, regarding gifts of costly jewelry as the price a man pays for a wife's loyalty. It is clear from many chapters that Patti and her little brother, the only family member depicted with real sympathy, felt excluded by the strength of their parents' devotion to each other.

The most sad and touching aspect of the affair, however, is that the whole thing can be seen as an extended love-letter to her father, a father who always seemed to be too busy doing something else.

In her childhood she gets bored and resentful at the way dinner-time conversation always turns to politics. She learns she can gain attention for herself by falling off her chair — which she does so often that her parents think she is dangerously ill.

As she approaches adulthood she tries to get in touch with her father through her fantasies. These involve him visiting her in her own private lighthouse, an image which does not require a Freudian training to interpret.

She writes him a long poem and leaves it on his desk. When she asks him if he read it, he says: "Poem? Gee... you know, there are so many things on my desk. I guess I didn't see it."

Perhaps the most revealing passage comes early in the book when she watches him make a speech and realizes that he is capable of exercising an extraordinary hold over people: "I remember being proud of him and at the same time frightened; whatever it was that made him so special was the reason I'd never be able to keep him all to myself." It is hard to avoid the impression that, in life with her father, Patti Davis has been both drowning and waving.

(London Observer Service)

The abbot with expensive habits

By SUE MASTERMAN/Vienna

THE ABBOT of Rein, head of a large Cistercian monastery in the south of Austria, was dismissed last month from his high office after it was discovered that he had bankrupted his monastery in the course of 12 years to the tune of nearly \$6 million.

The Cistercian order did not want to send their abbot to jail but they were forced, last week, to bring charges against him of fraud and of having enriched himself from monastery funds. He is also accused of having deprived several old ladies of their savings or inheritances.

The abbot's activities have also brought a major insurance company into discredit, resulting in the suicide of one of its managerial assistants, and have led to the resignation of provincial politicians and the suspension of a judge.

The Roman Catholic church in Austria is one of the largest landowners. The Cistercian order has monasteries spread across the country. These have vast estates, which are farmed or forested. The case of 47-year-old Abbot Paulus Rappold of Rein has led to the question of whether monks are capable of managing such complex worldly goods, and whether there is any control mechanism that will stop them running hopelessly off the rails.

THE ABBOT first hit the headlines when it was discovered that, while his monks were having their rations cut for reasons of economy, the abbot had bought a hunting lodge with monastery funds, where he en-

tertained friends and relations. His friends included managers, politicians, and members of the former ruling Hapsburg family, as well as girls of less noble background.

He also indulged in holidays abroad, at monastery expense and in the company of attractive ladies. The stories about the trail of broken hearts and paternity suits he left behind him have filled the gossip columns in Austria for weeks.

The Vienna public prosecutor had already put him behind bars on another charge. Together with one of his hunting lodge friends, the general manager of a large insurance company, he had claimed and cashed \$1.5 million for a fire at the

monastery that never took place.

The Vatican has forbidden the acting abbot of Rein to comment on the affair. The abbot leaves behind a bankrupt monastery. The other monasteries have said hurriedly that they are certainly willing to give their brothers in need a loan, but that there is not question of their taking over the debt.

Church law gives an abbot powers equivalent to that of a feudal monarch. It does specify that he can employ worldly advisers, and that he must have a deputy manager among his monks who can check the books. The abbot of Rein did neither. He speculated in property and, apparently, on the money market. The farmer's son who is a qualified locksmith was in no way prepared for the task confronting him.

(London Observer Service)

I say...

I'd rather play a senator than be one. — *Charlton Heston*.

A lot of people got into this out of boredom. They had tried everything, and so they decided to invite a devil to dinner. — *The Rev. John Novone, theologian at the Gregorian University, Rome, on Satanism*.

When people spend 50 hours a week sitting before the television set, that means that the TV set is the master of the house. It has replaced family life and family authority. — *Saul Bellow*.

Why don't people protest about Afghanistan as they did about Vietnam. — *Abdul Haq, Afghan guerrilla leader*.

Evil used to be something that happened in foreign countries. Now it happens to our own prime minister. — *Karl Bildt, Swedish Conservative deputy*.

(London Observer Service)

Researching tribal cures

By JAN RAATH/Harare, Zimbabwe

IT IS called *vuka-vuka* (stand up) and works a treat for thousands of middle-aged Zimbabwean men to deal with what they euphemistically call "back trouble."

The dark brown powder is an aphrodisiac dispensed all over the country by Zimbabwe's *ngangas* (traditional healers), who have been sorting out mating problems with *vuka-vuka*, probably for centuries.

But it is also well known to hospitals and clinics as the source of cantharidine poisoning which, according to government and municipal health officers, has a seriously high prevalence countrywide.

A pretty yellow and black beetle found all over Zimbabwe is the *nganga's* source for cantharidine, known in the rest of the world as Spanish fly. This beetle and other bugs, roots, berries and animal organs used by Africa's deeply revered traditional healers are being studied by Dr. Norman Nyazema, a lecturer in clinical pharmacology at the University of Zimbabwe's medical school. For years he has been trying to prise away from the secretive *ngangas* the mysteries of their remedies, which still form the health services for most of the people of Africa.

Getting information out of the *ngangas* is Nyazema's biggest problem. In 1984 he managed to attract 50 of them to a closed seminar at the university, which produced a determined refusal to document any of their cures and at least one threat.

"Whether you like it or not, most people are using the two systems, sophisticated Western and traditional practitioner," says the British-trained pharmacologist.

"People feel there is more to their illness than Western drugs can deal with, that there is more to it than just taking a tablet." A paper published by Nyazema says patients visit clinics for the immediate relief of their symptoms, and then, call on the *nganga* to find out why they are sick. He estimates that some 25 per cent of the *nganga* medicine prescribed by *ngangas* is effective and often is little more than the raw material of the same drug handed out in a refined form by chemists.

BUT much of the rest is humbug. "Most of these guys are very good psychologists, with a high standing in the community. They can get to the root of the problem, do some psychotherapy, but then just to keep their credibility up, they prescribe something as well."

The problem with traditional medicine is that the doses are not properly quantified, and, Nyazema says, "they often poison people with overdoses."

His work is an attempt to identify the substances used in traditional practice, find antidotes for the toxins where they occur, and seek out other uses.

In the case of *vuka-vuka*, he believes there is an urgent need to alert people to its dangers. It achieves the desired effect by eating the tissue of the urethra and inflaming the exposed cells with the high salt levels it causes in the blood. Kidney tissue is also attacked in the process and patients urinate blood.

It is used almost exclusively by men, but Nyazema hears there are other poisons for women.

(London Observer Service)

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הכדא מן האל

The firm Crystal was founded in 1955 by Mr. Elhanan Friedman, and is now celebrating 30 years of ramified commercial activity in the home electrical appliances field. Crystal began its career with the manufacture of a hand-wringer washing machine, and was the first company to import compact, automatic washing machines. Today, Crystal is a flourishing firm; there are 500,000 homes in Israel with at least one Crystal product.

The broad range of the company's products include: ultra-modern washing machines, Whirlpool and Westpoint refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, baking and cooking ovens, micro-wave stoves, television and video sets.

Mr. Friedman, the firm's General Manager, points out that "Success has no secret formula, success is based on the finest products, the finest service and unmitigated integrity. This goes for domestically manufactured items as well as those that are imported because manufacturing them locally is not worthwhile."

Which is why Crystal made every effort to market the leading products of Europe and the U.S.A., products which had proven their intrinsic worth: Thomson of France,

Whirlpool, a leading firm in the U.S.A., and Bauknecht of West Germany.

Crystal machines win the No. 1 spot each year in Israeli polls, with such titles as: Best Buy, Most Preferred Product and Finest Service Award, this being the only company providing round the clock servicing. As an added service, in Tel Aviv there is an instruction centre where clients are provided with free instruction on ways and means of obtaining maximum efficiency from the various items. Mr. Friedman is being awarded today, The French CFCE medal by the French Ambassador for his part in developing Franco-Israeli commercial relations. This distinguished award is evidence of the fine business relations between the Crystal company and the French Thomson firm.

Crystal is continuing its technological strides forward, with its Flash washing machines, which do a complete wash in 38 minutes flat; and the Flash dishwasher, with a cycle of only 20 minutes.

Says Mr. Friedman, company General Manager, in conclusion: "Crystal is an old firm but one that is young and dynamic in soul. That's the secret of our success."



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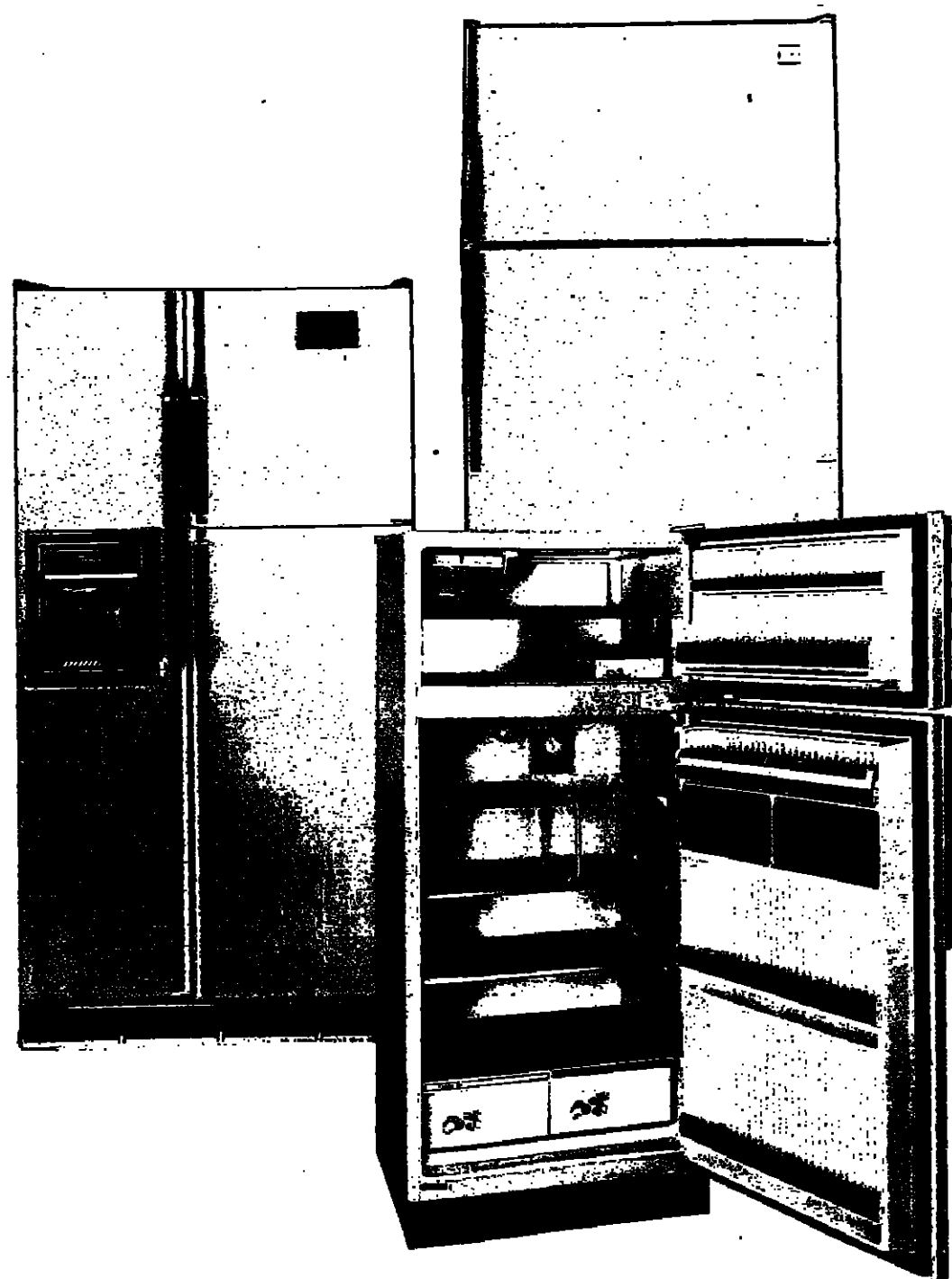
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Aids: The battle is on

IN ONE month's time - on April 15 - all blood donated to the country's blood banks will be screened for antibodies to the Aids virus. Any Aids-positive donations will be withdrawn from the supply.

In addition, seven centres throughout the country will test people directly for Aids antibodies - free of charge, and, if necessary, without a doctor's referral.

These two decisions, as reported yesterday in *The Jerusalem Post*, were announced at a day-long study session for the press on Aids (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) held by the Health Ministry in Tel Aviv on Tuesday, at which a comprehensive programme to deal with Aids was detailed.

The necessity for screening of blood donations is pinpointed by the fact that the very first patient diagnosed as having Aids in Israel had had open heart surgery in 1980, during which operations he received a large number of blood donations - one of which was contaminated. He died of Aids in 1983. The other patients to die of Aids from infected blood transfusion was a Jerusalem woman (the only female among the 23) who had been in the hospital for cosmetic surgery.

Although the blood bank will screen all blood from April 15, it will take about three months until all the current blood supplies and supplies of blood products will have been tested, so only after July 15 will one be able to say that Israel's blood banks will be 100 per cent free of contaminating antibodies.

In the event of an Aids-positive donation, the blood will be retested, and then again, by a different test. The name and address of the donor will then be sent to the Health Ministry, who will refer him to one of the seven centres for out-patient treatment and explanations. This procedure, Dr. Shulamith Bar-Shany,

head of Magen David Adom's blood bank, stresses, will take time, and any person wishing to know if he or she has been exposed to Aids should not use the blood bank for diagnosis.

The seven "Aids clinics" are, in effect, already functioning, albeit on minimum budgets. They exist at Hadassah Ein Kerem, Ichilov Tel Aviv, Tel Hashomer, Kaplan Rehovot, Beilinson Petah Tikva, Rambam Haifa and Soroka Beersheba.

The Health Ministry envisages that they will consist of teams of experts - doctors expert in infectious diseases, immunologists, nurses, clinical psychologists and often a social worker. Anyone who suspects he may have contracted Aids should first turn to his family doctor, who will decide whether to refer him to a clinic or to send a blood sample to the clinic. If the patient prefers, for reasons of privacy, to go directly to the centre, he may do so. People suspected of Aids contacts will also be referred to the clinics by the medical services of the IDF, the security services, police and prisons.

After testing, the information will be transferred to the district health office and family doctor. (Labs of the blood bank and the central laboratory at Tel Hashomer will report directly to the Health Ministry's epidemiologist.)

The test for the Aids virus will be carried out on all blood donors, donors of semen, and of organs.

During the day-long session, the press was told of several of the dilemmas facing the medical establishment.

One is the way to deal with Israel's prison population. So far, no decision has been made about whether to test for Aids in prison - and if testing is decided upon, then should every

JOANNA YEHIEL

single prisoner be tested, or only those in the high-risk groups (assuming one can identify them). What of prisoners who have been out on home-leave - does one recheck them after each visit?

Asking these questions (and giving no answers) Dr. Yaacov Ziegelbaum, head of the medical services

'We will not allow any patient to be turned away from any of our hospitals' - Dr. Dan Michaeli

of the prison service, cited a January 1986 review of prisons in 50 American states, in which of about 500,000 prisoners, 420 were found to have full-blown Aids. The researchers found no common policy for testing from state to state - some prisons tested only those with symptoms of the disease, others tested only those in the high-risk groups, while only three of the states tested all the prisoners in their charge.

And what do we do once we have diagnosed someone as having Aids antibodies? Ziegelbaum asked.

This is the million dollar question - which one at yesterday's symposium, including Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Dan Michaeli himself, could answer.

In cases where a patient is ill - either with Aids or with ARC (Aids related disease, which bears the possibility of becoming full blown Aids), then there are certain treatments which the medical establishment can carry out - although the

diseased still carries a 50 per cent fatality rate.

But in the case of a person being diagnosed as a carrier - that is, he bears signs of contact with Aids, and may be infectious to others, through sexual contact, what does one then do with him?

"We will then inform him - and then tell him what he can and can't do," Michaeli promised. The clinics will be able to advise Aids positive people and their families. But there is no way an Aids carrier can be forcibly restrained from acting in any possibly dangerous way towards others - his sexual behaviour is his own business.

Meanwhile, what is needed is a comprehensive, country-wide educational drive by the Health Ministry to raise awareness among the high-risk groups, and to ensure responsible behaviour. This is also part of the ministry's plans - but no date has yet been mentioned.

Israel's homosexual population, like that in the U.S., does seem to be acting more responsibly, and practicing "safe sex," Michaeli said.

The problem of the blood transfusions will be solved in the near future. The relatively large number of infected haemophiliacs involved in the Israeli figures is due to infected blood (Factor 8) imported from the U.S., and, for the past year, this Factor 8 has been heat-treated and is no longer dangerous.

The high-risk groups most difficult to reach are prostitutes (both male and female) and drug addicts, and here the Ministry of Health has no answer, as yet.

Michaeli referred also to the fears of the hospital and medical service workers. To date, only one case has been reported, world-wide, of a medic (in this case a British nurse)

who became infected while caring for an Aids patient.

"We will not allow any patient to be turned away from any of our hospitals," Michaeli said. All our hospitals will deal with Aids cases, if one comes their way. There will be no grouping of patients together in one or two hospitals. The Ministry of Health is also supplying proper information to all hospitals and medical services about treatment of Aids and precautions for hospital workers.

Tracing the history of Aids worldwide, Prof. Rami Morag of Hadassah, Ein Kerem said Aids first became an issue in 1981, when Dr. Gottlieb of the U.S. reported on five homosexuals with similar, unexplained symptoms. That first report quickly became an avalanche of similar discoveries among young male homosexuals in the States. In 1982, the same kind of symptoms were found in 32 Haitians immigrating to the U.S. (Haitians are the fourth high-risk group). In 1982, the disease was identified in haemophiliacs, then in babies, and in 1983, in female sexual partners.

In 1983, the disease itself was identified in France and then, at almost parallel time, in the U.S. In May 1985, the U.S. started testing all blood donations.

To date, 11,000 victims have been identified in the U.S. - and over 5,500 are dead. Cost of treating each patient is estimated in the U.S. at \$150,000 - excluding those who suffer from pre-Aids condition, of whom, it is estimated, about a quarter will go on to develop full-blown Aids.

So far, a vaccine is seen as appearing sometime in the far future. Research for a cure has top priority both abroad, and in Israel, where the Weizmann Institute is involved in one such project, with Kaplan Hospital.

Doctors, often unaware of this most rare disease, were largely at a loss when faced with the mysterious deaths it caused. Dysautonomic babies died inexplicable deaths related to excessive vomiting, aspiration, feeding difficulties or pneumonia.

Today there is still no cure. However, much can be done to improve the quality of a dysautonomic patient's life.

Seven years ago the pediatric department of Hadassah set up a unit to diagnose and treat the 80 cases of dysautonomia in Israel. This unit runs parallel to one in New York, headed by Dr. Felicia Axelrod, which treats about 150 children.

"Together we treat virtually every known case of dysautonomia in the Western world," Godfrey explains.

Treatment includes surgical procedures. Dysautonomic patients often cannot swallow, and may regurgitate highly acidic fluid from the stomach back into the mouth. If they then aspirate the liquid into their lungs, pneumonia and lung damage may develop.

But today a gastrostomy can alleviate this danger, says pediatrician Ofra Peleg, who heads the Hadassah dysautonomia clinic.

SWALLOWING saliva remains a problem, and children who cannot be taught to swallow it are shown how to spit it out.

DESPITE THE medical advances, there is much that cannot be done. "Caring for a dysautonomic child is an exhausting experience, entailing emotional and physical stress for the whole family," explains Peleg. "Parents must provide physiotherapy, speech therapy and respiratory therapy, and be prepared for a non-stop war with their child over food. Dysautonomic children don't enjoy eating."

Especially frightening is the child's tendency to hold his breath when angry or upset. Perfectly healthy children might do the same. But a normal child, sensitive to the biochemistry in his blood, will automatically start breathing again when the oxygen level sinks and the carbon dioxide rises.

A dysautonomic child may not. He may then become hypoxic, go into convulsions, and in rare cases forget to start breathing again. Parents, hard pressed to placate the child, often spoil him. This can cause additional complications for their other children.

"The connection with us is crucial for families," stresses Peleg, whose work includes counselling.

"In Israel, where birth control is often frowned upon by the religious, we have families with more than one affected child."

A diagnostic test for pregnant women which could tell if the fetus was affected or not, would eliminate this dilemma. But no test has been found. Nor is there any way of determining who is a carrier.

But Godfrey is optimistic that advances in genetics may one day bring a breakthrough.

Until then, the Hadassah clinic liaises between patients and doctors, providing help and advice. A telephone advisory service is also available at 02-818111, pediatrics department.



Polina Gelman wearing some of her medals.

A woman of valour

JOEL REBIBO

POLINA GELMAN'S picture disappeared during Stalin's anti-Semitic campaign. The portrait had been displayed at the war museum in her hometown; she had been hailed as a heroine for flying 800 combat missions against the Nazis; she had earned the coveted Gold Star for her exploits.

But heroism is not enough of a shield against official anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. One must also sell out his own people, and, according to a close friend, Gelman would not.

She was working on her doctorate in Russian history at Moscow University when Stalin began cracking down on the Jews in 1948.

"With her status (as a heroine) she could have gotten the best of positions," recalls her friend, Prof. Isaac Kaplan, who visited Jerusalem this week. "She could have become a professor or the director of an institute."

Instead, Gelman was stripped of her status and sent to work as a librarian.

At the time, organized Jewish life was being curtailed as a matter of national policy. The Jewish Theatre was shut down and its director, Solomon Michoyeles was murdered. The Jewish Anti-Nazi Committee which raised U.S. Jewish money for the Russian war effort was disbanded.

"She has wasted her life as a simple librarian in an industrial institute because she refused to turn traitor," says Kaplan. "If she had agreed to serve the government as head of the anti-Zionist official committee like General David Dragunski, a Jew with two Gold Stars, her life would have been different."

Gelman and Kaplan were born in 1919 in a small, mostly-Jewish town called Gomel, where they both grew up and attended school. Kaplan remembers that the town synagogue and yeshiva were shut down when he was six years old.

WHEN THEY completed high school Gelman applied to the Russian air force. She was rejected at first because she was too short. But she persevered and was finally accepted for flight training.

"Polina had a feeling against the Nazis so she chose to be a pilot so she could strike against them," explains Kaplan.

Kaplan and Gelman began their university studies in Moscow in 1938 after completing military training. They both studied history until the summer of 1941 when the Nazis began bombing Moscow.

"I was sent to dig trenches and Polina was sent flying," recalls Kaplan.

In the following four years, Gel-

man flew 860 missions and downed some 200 Nazi planes. She once disappeared for three days behind enemy lines. According to Kaplan, she never expressed fear of what might happen to her if she was forced to bail out and was caught by the Nazis.

When it was all over, Gelman, now a major in the Soviet air force, was hailed as a heroine. Her picture appeared on the front page of the June 22, 1945 edition of *Pravda* and was prominently displayed in the Nazi museum established in her hometown of Gomel, which was under Nazi occupation during the war.

She was invited to the Kremlin where she was presented the Gold Star.

"She was so modest," recalls Kaplan. "She was a real heroine."

Heroism does not go unrewarded in the Soviet Union. Gelman received a special government allowance, privileged living quarters and respect.

"I had to take a series of exams to re-enter Moscow University," says Kaplan. "Polina was accepted immediately."

BUT THE years of privilege were brief. In 1948, Polina felt the wrath of Stalin and, says Kaplan, refused to turn traitor in order to improve her own lot.

"Anti-Semitism has always existed in Russia, but it had become nationalized," says Kaplan, who was a professor of economics at Moscow University and chairman of the sociology department of the State Committee of Labour.

(Kaplan says he discovered minutes from a 1906 committee conference chaired by Lenin, in which Stalin protested the number of Jews at the meeting: "I can't understand it - is this a Communist conference or a Jewish conference?")

Gelman lost her government stipend, special housing and position in the academic world and was sent to work as an anonymous librarian.

Her picture disappeared from the Gomel museum, but Kaplan who remained close to Gelman until his departure from Russia in 1981, is determined to see that she not be forgotten.

"People have to understand that anti-Semitism in Russia is different from anti-Semitism in the West," urges Kaplan. "Nobody can avoid anti-Semitism in Russia. Even heroes who were ready to sacrifice their lives for the country are victims, unless they're prepared to turn against their own people."

"It makes a big difference to the Jews who are still there to know that they will not be forgotten."



Polina as she is now

סוכרית לאהל

When pain is painless

PAMELA SYMON

vous system which controls voluntary actions.

A dysautonomic child may vomit uncontrollably and suffer from repeated bouts of pneumonia. He may not be able to shed tears or taste the food he is eating.

Unable to feel properly, he may thrust his tongue over his teeth in an attempt to sense the pressure, tearing it so badly that surgery is required.

He may have speech and motor difficulties, stunted growth and skeletal defects. His temperature

may fluctuate, his blood pressure be unstable, and he may drool constantly.

There is no known cure for dysautonomia, which strikes about 250 children in the Western World - all of them Ashkenazi Jews. (In Russia, with its large concentration of Ashkenazi Jews, there is probably a substantial number of additional cases).

The disease, transmitted by an autosomal recessive gene, means a baby has a one-in-four chance of being affected if both parents are carriers.

"This is very much our disease," says Prof. Simon Godfrey, chairman of the pediatrics department at Hadassah University Hospital, Mount Scopus. "If anyone should be taking it seriously, it's us."

UNTIL SOME 15 years ago, not much treatment was available anywhere. Life expectancy was low.

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BUCK UP
BUCKLE UP

Information at your fingertips

Doron Pely looks at some of the computer services that can make life much easier

NEVER has the saying "knowledge is power" been more true than in the modern age of computers. But libraries, archives and other information-gathering facilities face a hard time trying to meet the increasing demand of a society hungry for information at its fingertips.

Abroad and in Israel, business people, lawyers, doctors, investors and even philosophers are turning to a growing data base, videotex (a two-way exchange between terminals) and electronic-mail networks. In seconds they have information that once would have taken hours, even days, to find.

The concept followed by vendors of these services is simple: They store information in a computer's memory, or contract to use the data banks of other organizations, and sell the rights of access to these archives. In the electronic library, a book is never "on-loan" but, rather, it is always "on-line" - available to any number of "borrowers" simultaneously. Videotex technology allows a user to get information in the form of text or graphics displayed on a video screen.

Networks of electronic-mail vendors allow anybody to purchase an electronic "mail-box" for a range of activities such as sending and receiving express and registered letters all over the world - a process that can

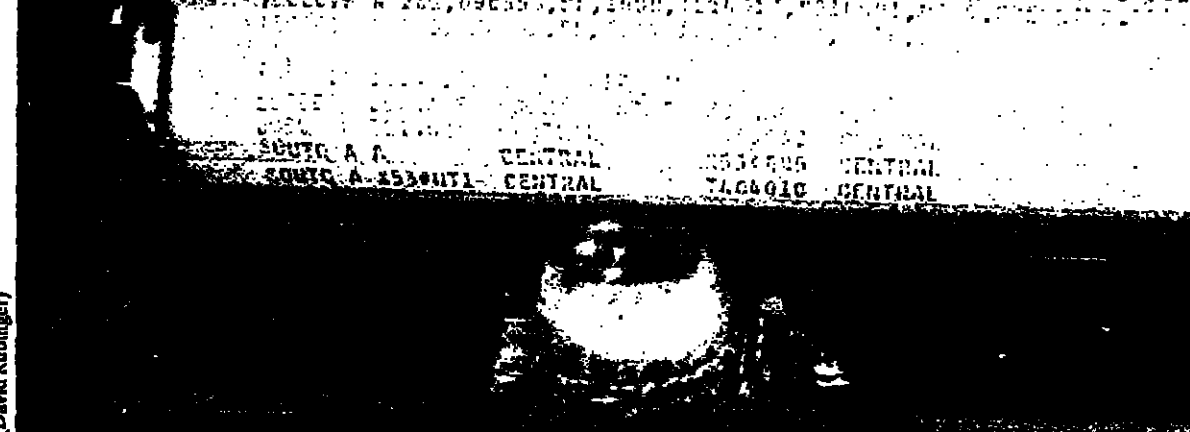
now take minutes instead of days. In this emerging world of "real-time" (instantaneous) services, the only real time is now. Data bases are playing the role of libraries, telephone lines replace the lines in front of the check-out counter and home computers or videotex terminals can turn every office or home into a well-stocked reading room.

A DIGITAL computer is eminently suitable for storing large masses of information and providing the means to retrieve that information fast. But for such services to become popular with large segments of population, they have to be readily accessible, relatively inexpensive and simple to use.

A search protocol, the software tool that allows a user to pose queries, using "menus" or specific questions, to the data bank and receive prompt replies, has to be "user friendly" so that people can use the system after minimal instruction. It also has to be as "flexible" as possible so that a search can yield results quickly and to the point.

Since the entire information network is designed around regular telephone lines, the availability of inexpensive (local) lines of a good enough quality for data transmission is crucial.

A glance at the wealth of information available today to anybody with a home computer, in Israel too, presents an impressive picture. In the U.S. alone, more than 4,000 data bases offer services in every conceivable field.



Lawyers can use Lexis, a law library; investors can consult the Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service, a huge data base which supplies not only information on stock market movements but also complete and abridged articles from the *Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's* and the *Dow Jones News Service*.

Philosophers can ponder the well-stocked discs of Philosophers Index, a data base of citations and abstracts of the literature on philosophy, esthetics and epistemology.

The *New York Times* Information Bank offers subscribers abstracts of the newspaper, 13 other newspapers and 40 magazines - all updated daily.

WESTERN Europe is not far behind in the information-peddling race. In England more than 400 data bases are channelled through the Prestel videotex system, which allows users access to information on medicine, biology, history, economics and geography - to name a few subjects.

The French government has decided to jump on the bandwagon by offering its citizens a free videotex monitor to function as an electronic telephone directory. Some 1.2 million such terminals are already in use, and the number is expected to

triple by the end of 1987.

With more than three million subscribers hooked to one vendor, a host of other services are expected to latch on and offer subscribers the ability to bank, shop, send mail and search for information all over the world - from the comfort of a living-room chair.

The first videotex system to be demonstrated in Israel was during the 1978 annual convention of the Israeli Association of Data Processing, where the British Prestel system was shown.

Real activity in the field started in 1982, when four banks launched pilot programmes to investigate the feasibility of providing customers

with financial videotex services. The stock-market crash caused a slow-down and so far only two banks, Discount and Barclays, have implemented the system.

Because of the limited size of the Israeli market, information dispensing and electronic mail companies are gearing their efforts towards the more lucrative financial and business communities.

"We believe that within a few years, every business, both in Israel and abroad, will be hooked up to an electronic mail system," says Yossi Zarzewsky, spokesman for Goldnet, an Aurec subsidiary. The company boasts 1,700 subscribers after 10 months of operation. It hopes to capture the Israeli electronic mail market after signing an agreement with America's ITT corporation, giving the Israeli company usage right to ITT's world-wide network of data bases and electronic mail.

ANOTHER company offering videotex and electronic mail services to the Israeli market is Elnet, owned jointly by Tadiran, Elbit and Yediot Aharonot. Elnet, which has invested \$3 million so far on development, offers specific groups of users custom-made systems. Such systems were developed for the Flower Growers Association, The Israel Chamber of Commerce, Shalom Tower's information centre and others.

"We learned from the mistakes of others and offer our services to well-

defined groups," explained Elnet's marketing director, Avner Ale. He said that by the end of 1987 his company planned to sell such services as overseas and local data bank access, home computer programme pool and electronic mail to the public at large.

Israel Discount Bank, in cooperation with Elnet, offers its customers Meteor, a videotex system which provides updated information on personal accounts, as well as present and past conversion rates for foreign currencies. Barclays Bank offers similar services and other banks plan to follow suit soon.

Hooking up to a videotex or electronic mail service usually involves a flat registration fee. This covers allocation of a "work area" in the mother company computer, instruction and documentation. All other services are billed on a per-use basis. Goldnet's price for a six page electronically-mailed letter is 534 old shekels. Prices vary with distance and type of letter sent. Data base searches are also billed on a use-per-minute basis.

Videotex and data base vendors are looking forward to a rapid growth in the use of their services. Millions of dollars have been invested in the construction of an infrastructure, but the highest hurdle that still needs jumping over is public awareness and the general timidity of non-computer professionals when it comes to living with computers and utilizing them as just another tool.

Down with desk-top clutter

By CATHERINE ARNST / Boston

THE LATEST development in personal computer software aims to clear up the clutter of notepads, calculators, clocks, dictionaries and calendars that crowd modern office desks.

The breakthrough has been made with a set of programmes designed to clear up the desk top by placing such accessories in a standard computer, where they can be called up at the stroke of a key no matter what else is on the screen.

The first such memory-resident programmes - so called because they are built into the computer's permanent internal memory - were introduced less than two years ago, but demand has built up rapidly.

The Future Computing Forecasting Group predicts that the market for desk accessory software will rise to \$150 million by 1990 - not a huge amount in the \$2 billion a year software market, but still one of the fastest-growing niches in the industry.

New desk-accessory programmes have been flourishing over the last

few months as the price of main memory chips has dropped sharply, allowing computer users to more than double the capacity of their machines for little money. With much larger memory sizes available, software producers have started producing an ever-widening variety of memory-resident programmes.

MOST CONVENTIONAL programmes are stored on floppy or hard discs that have to be re-inserted into the computer each time they are used. So telephone directories or calculators on disks, though available, made little practical sense, because it was faster to look up a number than to unload one programme and insert another. Now memory-resident programmes offer instant access.

For example, a person working on a spreadsheet programme, who gets a call from a client wanting an

appointment, can simply call up the calendar on a corner of the screen, schedule the appointment and go back to the task in hand in seconds.

Some industry analysts say desk accessory programmes, many of which cost only \$50, could significantly cut into demand for far more expensive integrated software packages.

Integrated software such as Jazz, made by Lotus, and Microsoft Corporation's Windows, combine several functions into one programme and require tremendous amounts of main memory to operate. Desk accessory programmes may also force makers of single-function programmes such as word processors or spreadsheets to add memory-resident features.

"I think fairly soon we'll be seeing that if you want to compete, you have to offer more than a single-function programme," said Robert

Lefkowitz, software consultant at the Infocorp market research group.

BORLAND INTERNATIONAL's Sidekick is by far the most popular accessory programme. It has a notepad, calculator, automatic dialler, calendar and appointment book. The company says it sells so well it no longer needs advertising. It was the first to implement the memory-resident feature and has sold more than a million copies since it was introduced in June 1984.

Borland pioneered low-cost software and started out selling their programmes exclusively by mail-order, building a \$30m. a year business in the process.

The company's latest desk accessory programme is Turbo Lighting, a \$100 spelling checker that also offers instant access to a dictionary and thesaurus. Borland has purchased the rights to reference works - including *Barlett's Book of Quotations*, *The Columbia Encyclopedia* and *Black's Law Dictionary* - and plans programmes incorporating

them for computers with very large memories.

Other popular desk accessory programmes include Amber Systems' Homebase, Lotus's Spotlight and Conceptual Instruments' Desk Organizer, which has a clock.

THE MAJOR problem with the programmes at the moment is compatibility. Industry experts say programmes may interfere with each other and the main programme, freezing up the computer in the process.

The operating system used by all IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers was designed to handle only one application at a time. Some software companies, led by Microsoft, are designing a set of industry-wide standards that would allow all memory-resident and regular programmes to co-exist.

If they succeed, analysts predict that memory resident programmes could help users to tidy up not just their desk tops, but the entire office.

THERE WILL always be tax evaders among us, but their lives are becoming increasingly difficult in this age of cybernetics.

Tax collectors are a suspicious lot, they do not believe everything we taxpayers tell them. If they could check the accounts of each and every one of us in depth, they could spot all our derelictions; but an endless number of clerks would be needed for that. Besides, most people do not have to be checked. It would be a pity to spend successive weeks investigating citizens who turn out to be clean as a whistle.

Is there a way of narrowing the field? Can a method be devised of focusing attention on the minority (large in number, but a minority still) who are not to be trusted? There is a contraption for doing that. It is embodied in the revenue department's Mechanized Information Service (MIS). Its director, Gavriel Bar-Lavie, explains the process:

Narrowing the field

PURSE-STRINGS / David Krivine

"We are an intelligence-gathering agency. Our computers supply the tax inspectors with all the relevant information there is about the public they deal with."

"What does he mean by relevant?" "If a man declares his income from all sources to be NIS 20,000 a year, the question is whether that is plausible. If he made a good deal more

than NIS 20,000, but hid the balance under the mat - our computers will be none the wiser. But if he spent large sums of money, the tax inspector will be interested to know. He will ask the squanderer where the cash came from."

How is the MIS to know that he spent large sums of money? "It draws information from other agencies' computers. 60 in number, up and down the country. One is situated in the Transport Ministry's Vehicle Licensing Bureau. It will tell us that this man, with a declared income of NIS 20,000, sold his Fiat 127 in March for NIS 9,000 and bought an Opel Ascona in April for NIS 27,000."

"He disbursed NIS 18,000 of his own money in one fell swoop. Well, he might have saved up for several years. But a computer owned by the local authorities lets us know that in September he also disposed of his 3-bedroom flat in Ramat Eshkol for NIS 90,000 and acquired a 4½-room residence in Kiryat Shmuel for NIS 180,000. That's a lot of spending."

"We don't say that the declaration of income was false, it is not our business. All we do is tell the tax office: here is a problem, examine it. The chap may have a perfectly good explanation or he may not. It's worth taking the trouble to find out."

BUT IF a person earns a lot and spends a lot and also saves a lot, it may not always be possible to match all these things exactly together. Not to worry, the MIS has other checking devices - what Bar-Lavie calls "crossings," for example.

"A certain business has, we learn, a turnover of NIS 10m. It declares a taxable profit of only NIS 25,000. Are the two figures compatible? They may be, if there is a recession in that branch. But if prices are good, why should the firm in question be earning so little on a sizeable volume of sales? Or a factory announces earnings of NIS 300,000. We discover that it employs 100 workers. That means it is making a mere NIS 3,000 a year per worker. Why employ so large a staff for such a meagre return? It sounds fishy, so we pass the information on."

Suppose people do some of their business on the side, without receipts. How is the computer to detect that?

"It may be that all the accessories to a number of illicit transactions keep mum and put nothing down in their books. In that case the computer won't know - though if the transactions should be numerous, large and profitable, the spending habits of the interested parties may, as stated above, be affected. Let us assume, however, that only one of the participants is a tax evader. We may be able to spot him - because of the computers belonging to big companies and institutions all over the place, to which we are plugged in."

"Say a man sold some building materials to one of these companies and did not enter the sale in his books. But the purchaser has entered the deal on its books; which it has an interest in doing, since such an outlay is a cost, deductible from income. The information reaches our own computer and appears on the offending seller's dossier in our filing system."

"Anyway, if the merchant keeps selling his building materials without reporting it, what happens to his stock? The annual check will reveal that it is smaller than it should be. What happened to the missing building materials, our inspectors will ask."

The offender might cunningly contrive to borrow some extra stock just for the day of inspection (if he can find out when it is) and give it back the day after, can't he?

"Of course he can. There is no end to the monkey business people get up to. We counter that by building up a picture of the person's overall activity. We have a 'credibility chart.' We take off points for oddities, according to 70 different criteria. For example, turnover in a particular textile branch has increased by 2 per cent, but turnover of a particular textile firm in that same year has dropped by 15 per cent. Nothing wrong with that, but it is odd, so we take a couple of points off the firm's rating."

"The ratio between that same firm's declared income (as reported to the income tax department) and its turnover (as reported to the value added tax department) is lower for the norm for the branch. Bang - another two points off." It is a kind of plausibility test. If the firm loses many points, Bar-Lavie gets distrustful.

WHAT ABOUT people who have never registered with the tax office and - as far as its records are concerned - do not exist?

"Ah, but they do exist - in the population registry, and we start with that. We take down the name

and identity-card number of every resident aged 20 or over and build up a matrix about him containing all the information we can put together from our various sources."

Relevant is where he lives (with his parents or on his own), what his marital status is, what his occupation is (gainful or not gainful, like studying), what property he occupies (e.g., for business purposes), what municipal rates he pays (if any), how he travels (by car or bus) and so on. The MIS is thus able to construct an economic identikit for every adult person in the land.

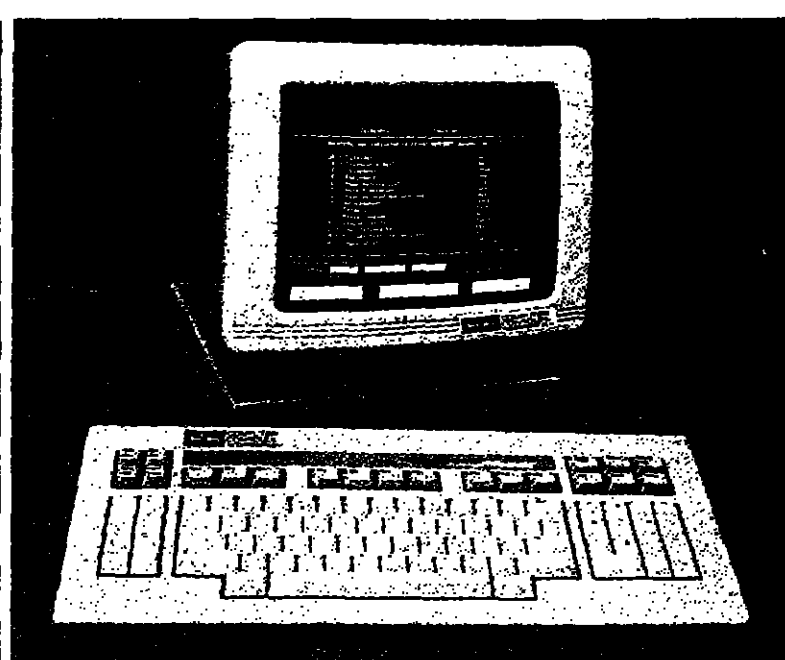
The taxman dealing with an individual will start with that person's general information sheet. It may reveal that he possesses several vehicles. The taxman's curiosity is aroused: he wants to know more about those vehicles. He calls up the relevant sheet or detailed information and finds out everything about the vehicles: make, year of purchase, size of engine, type (a truck, a van, a big new private car, a small old one, whatever).

THE INTERNAL revenue department possesses 600 computer terminals all over the country, which have made possible the institution of an in-service electronic mail system. Instead of communicating by phone or by post, officials can send messages to each other lightning-quick through those terminals, saving time and money.

A computerized instruction and guidance system has been created for those same officials, using the same terminals. "Our tax laws have become so complex," observes Bar-Lavie, "that our own staff members sometimes need help and clarification. They take their problems to the computer." They can ask any questions they like - what is the latest version of the capital gains tax, how a certain tax reporting should be done? The computer is their teacher. It tells them what they want to know.

"That's not all. We are introducing, with the aid of our 600 terminals, something that may be unique worldwide. Auditors and tax advisers will be permitted - if their clients authorize it - to call up (for a fee) all the information needed about the client's account in the revenue office - what reports he has made, which ones he still has to submit, what money he owes the exchequer, what interest has accumulated on his outstanding debts, whether the authorities have made an assessment of his tax liability, what was the last assessment made, etc.

"Instead of queuing up in the tax office and poring over folders, they will only need to press buttons to get all the necessary information instantly. It will simplify the accountants' job a lot," Bar-Lavie believes.



Powerterminal II of Computer Consoles Inc., connected by RS-232 ports and with direct connections to 'slave printers.'

'Strategically important' centre gets a boost

THE AMERICAN computer firm, Computer Consoles Inc. (CCI), has decided to turn its subsidiary in Ramat Gan into its central European sales office - this in addition to being the company's world centre for research and development.

The Israel-U.S. Free Trade Area agreement and Israel's special economic relationship with Western Europe makes the 35-employee subsidiary "a strategically important one for us," CCI vice president Richard Levy said this week.

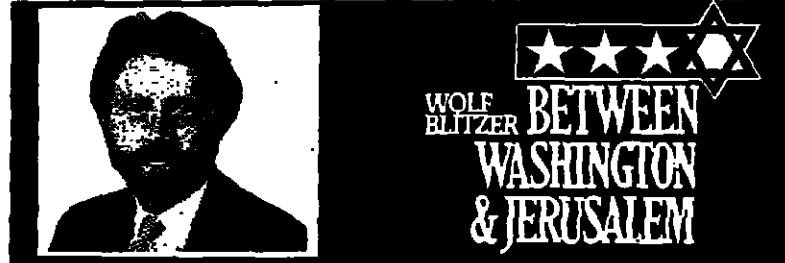
Out of a \$145 million turnover worldwide by the Rochester, New York-based company, the Israeli subsidiary generated about \$1m., half of which was exported from Israel.

Subsidiary general-manager Jack Mark said at a recent press conference that the Israeli subsidiary had played an important role in developing parts, hardware, operating systems and programme languages for CCI's new family of Power 32 computers.

CCI, established in 1968, specializes in the planning and design of computerized telephone systems. The company established its Israeli subsidiary in 1981 when it won the contract to design, install and maintain the country's international phone exchange.

The company recently dedicated its new home, CCI House, in Ramat Gan.

YITZHAK OKED



Perhaps the best informed and most authoritative journalist on American-Israeli relations, The Jerusalem Post's Washington Bureau Chief Wolf Blitzer reveals the inside story from his perspective on Capitol Hill.

The author gives special emphasis to the way decisions are made in Washington and the varied roles of the foreign policy bureaucracy, Congress, the press, the American Jewish community, the Arabs and their supporters, and the official Israeli presence. The book brims with fascinating vignettes of key individuals, devoting entire chapters to Henry Kissinger, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, with each one's personal experiences with Israel.

"I strongly recommend his good judgement and specialized perceptions to the readers of this book."

— Abba Eban.

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Correcting the imbalance of trade with Germany

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AVI TEMKIN

Trade, especially international trade, should be ruled by reciprocity. This is something of which the Federal Republic of Germany and its businessmen are apparently unaware, as regards trade with Israel. In 1985, Israel's trade deficit with Germany totalled about \$567 million, almost a third of Israel's deficit with all Common Market countries.

According to official figures, Israel last year exported merchandise worth \$334m. to Germany, 17 per cent of its sales to European Economic Community countries. But the German share in Israel's imports from the EEC last year was 25 per cent. German exports to Israel, by contrast, totalled \$900m., and its imports from this country reached \$334m. The United Kingdom imported 30 per cent more goods from Israel than did Germany, and exported 30 per cent less than did the Germans.

Industry Ministry officials here say the German government is not to blame, Germany, they say, is only too willing to help us trade with other countries. When it comes to declarations, nobody can compete with their support for Israeli exports. But the Federal government, the officials add, cannot be expected to tell private businessmen what to buy, and apparently those businessmen do not buy Israeli goods.

The officials point out that Israeli exports have no obvious advantage over those of other countries, and insist that the German government is doing what it can to boost Israeli exports.

Israeli products do face tough competition in Germany, the officials admit, especially when it comes to the high-technology products in which the Israeli government is putting its hopes for export growth. Germany, like Japan, has a highly developed technological sector, and Israeli products must be of exceptional quality to compete.

In an effort to ease the situation, the Industry Ministry is encouraging buy-back arrangements — compulsory barter-type contracts — with German companies. One can only hope that such arrangements will alter the trade imbalance. "Retaliation" is not a nice word in international trade, but German firms doing business with Israel should know that their share in the market here depends on reciprocity in the future.

The government and local industrialists are also trying to introduce Israeli products through bi-national cooperation on technological issues. Earlier this month, a delegation comprising representatives of 33 Israeli industrial firms visited Germany for talks with the heads of the German manufacturers' association and with representatives of 162 German firms.

Among the delegation members were Eli Hurvitz, president of the manufacturers' association, Yigal Erlich, chief scientist at the Industry Ministry, and Danny Rosolio, secretary general of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim. Their participation in the delegation underlines the importance they attach to the German market.

Farmers urge gov't to pass on fuel savings

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Farmers would save \$80 million if the government passed fuel savings on to them, officials of the Agriculture Centre said at a press conference here yesterday. Officials of the Centre, which is the Histadrut-affiliated farmers organization, added that animal feed has recently dropped 25 per cent in price on world markets, but that here too, the government is not passing savings on to farmers. If it did, subsidies on agricultural products could be reduced

without raising consumer prices, the officials explained.

Farmers are also calling for more government investment in agricultural research, special assistance to cotton growers — who are expected to face two difficult seasons because of changes in U.S. price supports for American growers — and incentives for agricultural exports. Such exports, according to Agriculture Centre Secretary-General Simha Assaf, could reach \$1 billion within five years if proper incentives were provided.

WORLD NEWS

Raise for queen in UK budget

LONDON (AP). — Queen Elizabeth II was handed an increase of £160,600 (\$235,280) in the government's annual budget statement Tuesday.

The raise gives the monarch a total of \$4,136,800 (\$6.04 million) from the state to cover costs of her official duties in the 1986-87 financial year.

The figure last year was £3,976,200 (\$5,805,250).

The government's civil list of payments to 11 members of the royal family totalled \$5,537,300 (\$7,865,458), up from last year's \$5,180,000 (\$7.56 million), the Treasury said. About 75 per cent of the grants are spent on staff salaries and household expenses.

UK banks cut prime rate to 11.5%

LONDON (Reuters). — The Bank of England led a cut in British interest rates yesterday as financial institutions responded favourably to an optimistic budget statement Tuesday by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson. An announcement by

the Bank of England that it was trimming its money market rates by one per cent was swiftly matched by Barclays, the biggest of Britain's Big Four clearing banks, which said it was cutting its base rate from 12.5 to 11.5 per cent.

Changes in U.S. money to thwart forgers

WASHINGTON (AP). — The government on Tuesday announced design changes in U.S. currency aimed at thwarting counterfeiters. The changes are the culmination of several years of study into ways to make U.S. banknotes more difficult to duplicate on sophisticated new copying machines.

The Treasury Department rejected such radical changes as using a different colour for U.S. money, other than green. Production of the new currency will begin in 12 months

with the first new notes entering circulation in 15 to 18 months.

The main change is the addition of a clear polyester thread woven into the paper. The thread, which will run vertically on the left border, will be visible to the eye when held up to the light, but cannot be reproduced by copiers. The other change will involve printing of the words "United States of America" repeatedly around the portrait in such small type that copiers will not be able to reproduce the tiny letters.

W. German payment balance has DM4.1b. surplus

FRANKFURT (APF). — West Germany posted a 4.1 billion mark (\$1.8b.) surplus in its January balance of payments after recording deficits of 2.1b. marks in December and 2.4b. in January 1985.

The bank said the foreign trade account showed a surplus of 7b. marks (\$3.04b.) against more than 7.9b. marks in December.

Gulf War costs marine insurers \$60m.

BAGHDAD (Reuters). — Marine insurers paid at least \$600 million on Gulf war claims up to the end of 1985, a Lloyd's of London underwriter said yesterday. G.M. Veday of Mark L. Veday Underwriting Agencies said that a further 25 incidents in January and February had not yet been assessed and there had been an increase in attacks on shipping in

March by both Iraq and Iran.

L. Veday is among 70 war risk specialists taking part in a three-day conference here, representing insurance companies from 22 countries. He said the depressed state of the shipping industry would encourage certain shipowners and their crews to continue offering their services in the Gulf despite the dangers.

Exxon announces worldwide restructuring

NEW YORK (AP). — Exxon Corp., the world's biggest company, announced yesterday that it will restructure oil and gas operations outside North America and eliminate some central offices because of what chairman Clifton C. Gartin Jr. called "severe competition and the depressed energy market."

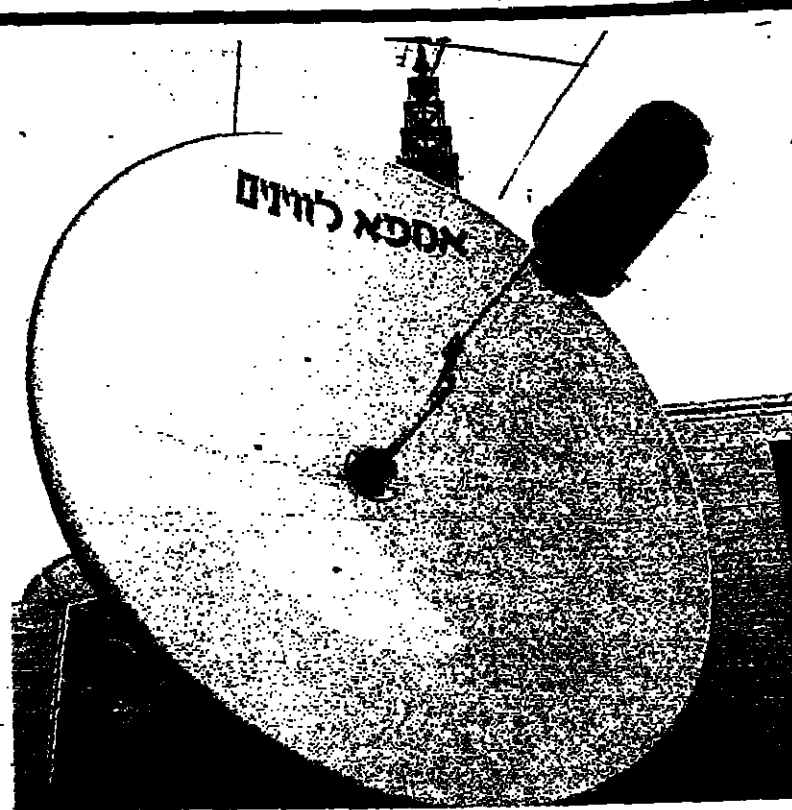
Last week Exxon said it would cut 1986 capital and exploration spending by 26 per cent compared with last year's level, from \$10.8 billion to \$8b. because petroleum prices have declined so rapidly in the past five months, making new drilling operations unprofitable.

China extends use of \$200m. loan to Egypt

CAIRO (AP). — China and Egypt have agreed to extend use of a \$200 million interest-free Chinese loan for another five years, the state-run Middle East News Agency said yesterday. The two sides also agreed to reschedule Egypt's debt repay-

ment to China to the year 2007 instead of 2005, Mena said.

The loan is currently used by various construction and military industries, and for the building of a \$75m. international conference centre in Cairo.



Ampa's dish antenna for receiving TV broadcasts via satellite signal. (Katz)

New Ampa satellite company

By YITZHAK OKED

TEL AVIV. — The Ampa consumer appliances company this week announced that it has established a satellite communications company.

The new company, Ampa Satellite Communications, specializes in equipment which enables regular

TV sets to receive signals from satellites. The dish antenna and all the other electronic accessories needed will sell for about \$3,600, which compares with \$1,500-\$2,000 in the U.S.

Various European programmes can be received with the new antenna.

Exports of flowers likely to rise 10%

By YITZHAK OKED

TEL AVIV. — Israel is planning to increase flower exports by 10 per cent next year to some 750 million flowers, compared to 680 million projected for 1986, according to Yisrael Dvir, head of the Association of Commercial Flower Growers.

After five years of losses, Dvir expected the flower growers to show a profit this year, thanks both to good weather here and improved European currency rates.

Dvir was speaking at the end of the international flower exhibition held at the Aviv flower packaging house in the Emek Hefer industrial area.

Most professional flower growers came to the exhibition, as did thousands of Israeli flower lovers. Shmuel Kedem, manager of the Aviv packaging house, who organized the show said his aim was to suggest to Israeli growers new flowers to try out.

The Aviv packaging house, and the farmers affiliated to it, provide about 40 per cent of Israel's total exports.

Some 10 per cent of this year's exports are new kinds or varieties of flowers, and next year this figure might rise to 20 per cent.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 6.90 per line including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 138 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

MUSEUMS
ISRAEL MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Art in Context, audio-visual programme on development of Israel Art & Early 20th Century Posters (avant-garde) 0 Two Artists, Two Landscapes, works by Shaikev Segal and Eli Shadrin 0 Traditional Jewellery, Permanent Display of Jewish Ethnographic Jewellery 0 Ancient Mirrors, display of mirrors from different cultures 0 "Friendly Butterfly", illustrated by Orah Eyal 0 From the Depths of the Sea, (Rockefeller Museum) 0 Building in Jerusalem, computer games to building with stone 0 "Nero Mitzvah", Ideas for Light in Jewish Ritual 0 The Cosmic and the Divine, Ancient texts of surrounding landscapes (Paley Centre, near Rockefeller Museum). 0 Permanent collections of Judaica, Archaeology, and Ethnic Art 0 Borowsky Fine Arts Wing (except for French Period room) closed Mar. 7-23. Visiting Hours: Events Main Museum: 10-5. At 11: Guided tour of Museum in English. 3: Guided tour of Judaica and Heritage galleries. 8:30: Poetry Now - A. Shabat, M. Ben, Y. Rotblit (Ticho House).

EXHIBITIONS
JERUSALEM MAP HOUSE. Old City, 7 Beit El St., 288338, 42547, Roberts, Turner, etc.

CONDUCTED TOURS
HADASSAH. Guided tour of all installations 0 Hourly tours at Kiryat Hadassah and Hadassah Mt. Scopus. 0 Information, reservations: 02-416333, 02-446271.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY
1. Tours in English at 9 and 11 a.m. from Administration Building, Givat Ram Campus. Buses 9, 28, 24 and 16.
2. Mount Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Building. Buses 9, 28, 48, 28 and 23 to the first underground stop. Further details: Tel. 02-582819.

AMIT WOMEN (formerly American Mizrahi Women). Free Morning Tours - 8 Tel Aviv, Tel. 220187, 235154.

PIONEER WOMEN - NA'AMAT. Morning tours. Tel Aviv, 210781, Jerusalem 246878.

HADASSAH VISITORS' DESK. Astor Hotel, Room 01, 108 Hayarkon St. Tel. 03-223141.

HAIFA
Museums
HAIFA MUSEUM, 26 Shabtai Levy St. Tel. 04-523255. Exhibitions: Modern Art - Reuben Rubin, the portrait in his work in retrospect; Yehoshua Kuperman, Sculptor, 17 Na'ale Artists, Ancient Art - Jewish coins of the Second Temple Period, Egyptian textiles, terracotta figurines, Shikmona finds. Music and Edgemoor - Jewish costumes, 20 porcelain pieces from the Felsa collection. Natan Clinic collection, U.S.A. Open: Sun-Thur. and Sat. 10-1; Tue. and Sat. 6-9. Ticket also gives admission to National Maritime, Prehistory and Japanese Museums.

TEL AVIV
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TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Dan Kulla (1838-1879). Sculptures, drawings, paintings, photographs. The Want of Matter, a Quality in Israel Art; 21 elite Israeli artists show work of last 25 years. The Museum's collection of classical, impres-

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2. Mount Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Building. Buses 9, 28, 48, 28 and 23 to the first underground stop. Further details: Tel. 02-582819.

AMIT WOMEN (formerly American Mizrahi Women). Free Morning Tours - 8 Tel Aviv, Tel. 220187, 235154.

PIONEER WOMEN - NA'AMAT. Morning tours. Tel Aviv, 210781, Jerusalem 246878.

HADASSAH VISITORS' DESK. Astor Hotel, Room 01, 108 Hayarkon St. Tel. 03-223141.

HAIFA
Museums
HAIFA MUSEUM, 26 Shabtai Levy St. Tel. 04-523255. Exhibitions: Modern Art - Reuben Rubin, the portrait in his work in retrospect; Yehoshua Kuperman, Sculptor, 17 Na'ale Artists, Ancient Art - Jewish coins of the Second Temple Period, Egyptian textiles, terracotta figurines, Shikmona finds. Music and Edgemoor - Jewish costumes, 20 porcelain pieces from the Felsa collection. Natan Clinic collection, U.S.A. Open: Sun-Thur. and Sat. 10-1; Tue. and Sat. 6-9. Ticket also gives admission to National Maritime, Prehistory and Japanese Museums.

TEL AVIV
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Conducted Tours
HADASSAH. Guided tour of all installations 0 Hourly tours at Kiryat Hadassah and Hadassah Mt. Scopus. 0 Information, reservations: 02-416333, 02-446271.

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MARKET PLACE

AARON SITTNER

Closed for business

Like General Douglas MacArthur's old soldiers, old habits never die. They just fade away. Now a tired, old business habit in this country is finally fading away, and we are all the happier for it. I'm referring to the mid-afternoon shutdown of retail shops, a senseless practice that not only angered consumers but also eventually became a headache for shopkeepers.

I don't know whether the origin of this custom has ever been chronicled. But hearsay has it that the extreme Mid-east midday heat would make trade so uncomfortable, that merchants were forced by the thermometer to take a siesta between 1 and 4 p.m. and then resume business till 7 o'clock.

I could never swallow that. As an ex-New Yorker, I find that the most torrid summer afternoon in Jerusalem — or even in Tel Aviv — is no match for a sweltering July afternoon in Manhattan. And, believe me, one thing Macy's would never tell Gimbel's is that it's too hot in the street to do business inside. Yes, Yoram, there is air conditioning in Israel!

One day a few years ago I forgot about the silly siesta custom and made a nearly abortive trip downtown to buy an electric socket — at that bewitching hour of 2.30 p.m. Naturally, all the shops, except for cafés and restaurants, were shut tight.

By luck, my route took me past the Hamasbir Lazarean department store, which was open. After purchasing my socket I walked into the manager's office to ask how come he is open at that hour in defiance of the municipal by-law that requires closing of shops between 1.30 and 3.30 p.m.

"Don't ask me about legal matters," he replied, adding, "All I know is that I do more business per hour between 1 and 4 p.m. than at any other time of the day!"

That message has apparently made its way into the consciousness of the retail sector as a whole. As a result, more and more small shopkeepers now stay open throughout the day. Jerusalem's main Supermarket recently demonstrated even more business maturity by extending its daily hours to 9 p.m. "It's such a smashing success, that we may have our other branches follow suit," a Supermarket spokesperson told me. "We don't want to tell people they must shop at certain hours, just because it is more convenient for us. We find our customers prefer to shop in the evening, after dinner. And, it's good business too."

What is more, by remaining open a few extra hours, we make it possible for husbands to join their wives in the trip to the Supermarket. Needless to say, they end up buying more goods than if the wife or husband would do the shopping alone."

At the recently opened Canion Ayalon shopping centre in Ramat Gan, the Supermarket Corporation has gone even further. There, it operates its Hypercol hypermarket daily from 9 a.m. to midnight.

A few months ago Tnuva's Hyper-shuk hypermarkets joined that late-hour opening bandwagon. This came after it polled its customers and found that almost half prefer to do their shopping at night. In fact, the new Hypershuk at the Rav Mecher shopping centre in North Tel Aviv, and the Hyper Co-Op in Bat Yam, have discovered that average sales volume is at a peak between 7 and 10 p.m.

Despite the trend towards all-day opening among independent shopkeepers, only Tel Aviv out of the country's three large cities has exempted the archaic business siesta by-law from its books. Haifa and Jerusalem still carry such statutes, but, as one of the latter's municipal inspectors told me last week: "Yes, there is such a law, but we do not enforce it. We just don't care."

"Occasionally we will issue a summons to a grocer who stays open on Tuesday afternoon, in violation of another by-law that requires food merchants to be closed then. But even this is done only when we are pressed by the local merchants association."

Eventually, the Tuesday closings will also go the way of the daily afternoon shutdown, as free enterprise rears its beautiful head.

And, some day in the future, Israeli motorists filling up their gas tanks at a petrol station after 8 o'clock in the evening won't have to pay that nocturnal surcharge.

And, neither will people who must go to the pharmacy at night, to pick up some medicine.

Mutual funds' redemption rules

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

An urgent announcement yesterday by the stock exchange management to exchange members laid out the rules under which mutual funds were to fix the redemption price of their units after yesterday's extraordinary trading session. In the almost unprecedented circumstances, wherein half the issues listed were marked "sellers only" and in fact did not trade, the funds had to be instructed how to price each of these issues, in order to calculate their total value.

The redemption price published each day is reached by dividing the total asset value of the fund by the number of units outstanding, giving the "base price," from which a half-per-cent fee is deducted to give the redemption price.

The exchange ruled that those funds which had more than 10 per cent of their total assets in shares whose prices were marked "sellers only" were allowed to calculate the price of these shares as if they had fallen 10 per cent from their previous close. The fund's asset value would thus be reduced by a larger amount than would have been the case had these shares been calculated on a 5 per cent drop, as the formal application of a "sellers only" marking would warrant.

The logic behind this decision is that a "sellers only" marking is usually followed by a further drop of between 5 and 15 per cent on the following day, so that the total drop approaches 20 per cent. The fund splits this drop more evenly over the two days by absorbing a larger proportion of it on the first day, since the 5 per cent "sellers only" drop is an artificial one, not based on actual buying and selling.

In spite of workers' strike

No wage hikes as Tadiran pledges to reduce expenses

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The management of Tadiran, the country's largest electronics manufacturer, yesterday stated that it would continue to "tighten its belt" and resist all pressure for wage hikes from its 8,000 workers, until the firm was again on a firm financial footing.

Tadiran, which is owned by Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, the Histadrut holding company, had sales of \$570 million in 1985, about 40 per cent in exports.

The statement was prompted by a two-day strike which some 3,500 workers began yesterday in the firm's communications division in Holon.

Yoel Matoth, vice president for manpower, told *The Jerusalem Post* that "we are losing money and it is madness under such circumstances to even consider wage hikes. We have no intention of deteriorating to the status of several other Israeli firms that are now the target of massive government rescue operations."

He declined to reveal the exact amount of the losses but stated that

they would probably run into several tens of millions of dollars.

Tadiran has been sharply reducing its expenses for more than a year in anticipation of the present crisis. The salaries of several dozen senior officials have been cut by between 10 and 20 per cent.

About 600 workers have been dismissed in the past year, and Matoth said that there may be additional firings.

He blamed Tadiran's plight on several factors: its goods were priced in dollars, whose value had fallen; the government had cut export incentive by some 9 per cent; many of its imports were from European countries, whose currencies had risen in value; the price of its goods in Israel had been frozen, but the cost of labour had risen by 10 per cent in real terms in the past few months. And to make things worse, the military establishment had sharply reduced its purchases.

Moreover, Tadiran needs to raise \$60m. to continue its research and development programme if it isn't to be squeezed out of foreign markets by companies that are developing more advanced products.

EXCHANGE SLUMPS

(Continued from Page One)

sion's closing price.

The main selling pressure came from the general public and the professional traders and portfolio managers. The latter in fact egged on the first group by spreading rumours of bloated sell orders and other forms of "psychological warfare" in the crucial morning hours of 8.30-11.30, when most decisions are made regarding that day's trading. The professionals, following their success on Tuesday in forcing the exchange management to suspend trading, were out to make the point that the numerous demands, particularly from Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i on his return from abroad, were insufficient.

"We have heard from the Likud, but not from the Labour Party," one source connected with the circle of speculators who dominate day-to-day trading told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. He was deliberately ignoring the statements on Tuesday from Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amora and Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi, which had rejected the market-taxing proposals of some of their party colleagues. The market, in his opinion, is giving most weight to the half-hearted denials from the prime minister on Tuesday, while his silence yesterday was treated as an ominous sign.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:		Turnovers:		4.25% fully-linked	
General Share Index	106.85 -0.02%	Shares—total	NIS 11,981,300	80% linked	Stable/falls to 3%
Non-Bank Index	117.28 -0.02%	Arrangement	NIS 4,440,500	90% linked	Stable to 0.5%
Arrangement	102.10 -2.98%	Non-bank	NIS 7,540,800	Double-linked	Stable/falls to 2%
Insurance	125.13 -7.50%	Bonds—total	NIS 6,387,200	Dollar-linked	Mixed to 0.5%
Commerce, Services	120.93 -4.75%	Index-linked	NIS 3,589,100	Rimon	Falls to 1.5%
Real Estate	142.10 -5.74%	Dollar-linked	NIS 2,798,100	Gilboa	Falls to 2.5%
Industries	108.65 -6.67%	Treasury Bills	NIS 22,456,700	For. Curr.	Mixed to 1%
Textiles	128.18 -7.27%	Share Movements:		denominated	Treasury Bills
Metals	104.32 -5.47%	Advances	9 (52)	(monthly yield)	1.46% to 1.75%
Electronics	94.80 -5.84%	of which 5%+	2 (10)	Arrangement yields:	
Chemicals	104.53 -7.50%	"buyers only"	0 (3)	IOB ord.	13.54%
Industrial Invst.	116.68 -7.16%	Declines	371 (253)	Union 0.1	13.29%
Investment Cos.	124.95 -0.02%	of which 5%—	108 (86)	Discount A	13.46%
General Bond Index	100.74 -0.34%	"sellers only"	231 (38)	Mizrahi r.	13.67%
Index-linked Bonds	100.75 -0.23%	Unchanged	20 (87)	Hapoelam r.	13.55%
Fully-linked	102.22 -0.17%	Trading Halt	40 (48)	General A	13.16%
Partially-linked	99.82 -0.26%	Bond Market Trends:		Laumi stock	13.16%
Dollar-linked Bonds	98.16 -0.78%	Index-linked	3%	Fin. Trade 1	12.37%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	100.31 -0.18%	Falls to 1%			
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	100.64 -0.29%				
Long-term 5+ yrs	100.05 -0.77%				

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
Commercial Banks			
General Share Index	106.85	18747	-10.0
General non-arr.	28980	211	-10.0
First In 1	3420	—	-5.0
FBI	3268	—	-5.0
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
Union 0.1	7780	758	-3.3
Discount	99100	515	-3.2
Mizrahi	31800	2287	-3.6
Hapoelam r.	52600	1486	-3.1
General A	136750	23	-3.0
Laumi 0.1	33750	3473	-2.6
Fin. Trade	45600	1	-5.0
Mortgage Banks			
Laumi Mort. r.	3720	s.o.1	-5.0
Dev. Mort.	921	s.o.1	-5.0
Mizrahi r.	1871	s.o.1	-5.0
Tefahot r.	10825	s.o.1	-5.0
Masav r.	2285	2518	-10.0
Financial Institutions			
Agrie. Co.	33000	20	+4.2
Ind. Dev. DD	63782	—	—
Cla Leasing 0.1	7850	373	-10.0
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r.	3530	772	-5.0
Hasehri r.	2655	—	-5.0
Phoenix 0.1	1125	1650	-10.0
Hamishmar	5346	152	-10.0
Menorah 1	6318	s.o.1	-5.0
Sahar 1	3536	417	-10.0
Zion Hold. 1	12100	9	-7.5
Trade & Services			
Mair Ezra	4256	s.o.1	-5.0
Supercol 2	3890	s.o.1	-5.0
Delek r.	4441	s.o.1	-5.0
Lightstar	7938	s.o.1	-5.0
Cold Storage	975	s.o.1	-5.0
Dan Hotels	3620	354	-5.0
Yarden Hotel	2780	s.o.1	-5.0
Hilon 1	12350	s.o.1	-5.0
Team 1	1549	s.o.1	-5.0
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	3610	s.o.1	-5.0
Elon	1092	s.o.1	-5.0
Africa Isr. 0.1	38000	s.o.1	-5.0
Dankner	3230	s.o.1	-5.0
Prop. & Bldg.	2385	15871	-10.0
Bayeside 0.1	3943	s.o.1	-5.0
ILDC r.	44640	s.o.1	-5.0
Rasoco r.	8046	s.o.1	-5.0
Mehadrin	9800	820	-9.3
Hadarim	1102	s.o.1	-5.0
Industries			
Dubek b	3088	s.o.1	-5.0
Pri-Ze 1	2549	s.o.1	-5.0
Sunfrost	5377	s.o.1	-5.0
Elite	14250	s.o.1	-5.0
Adgar	670	s.o.1	-5.0
Argaman r.	6530	729	-5.7
Delta G 1	4246	s.o.1	-5.0
Maquetta 1	22743	s.o.1	-5.0
Eagle 1	8616	s.o.1	-5.0
Pogon 0.1	7515	2278	-10.0
Schoellerline	13800	236	—
Rogovin	2943	2807	-10.0
Ordon 0.1 r.	9890	s.o.1	-5.0
Is. Can Co. 1	949	s.o.1	-5.0
Zion Cables	1981	s.o.1	-5.0
Pekker Steel	5301	s.o.1	-5.0
Elbit 3 r.	380700	242	-10.0
Investment Companies			
IOB Dev. r.	3564	s.o.1	-4.5
Elron	2556	s.o.1	-5.0
Alk 1	no trading		
Galelet	1170	200	-10.0
Israel Corp. 1	5458	1070	-10.0
Wolfson 1 r	60300	3.8	-10.0
Hapoelam Inv.	3914	s.o.1	-5.0
Laumi Invest.	4815	s.o.1	-5.0
Discount Invest.	2128	s.o.1	-5.0
Mizrahi Invest.	13880	s.o.1	-5.0
Cla 10	2432	s.o.1	-5.0
Landco 0.1	7790	s.o.1	-5.0
Pama 0.1	9614	s.o.1	-5.0
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	9755	594	-10.0
J.O.E.L.	1146	s.o.1	-5.0

Muzzle Your Mutt!

Paragraph 9 of the ordinance on rabies control states: "the veterinarian must order the destruction of any dog which is not restricted by a leash and muzzle when on the street."

FINANCIAL DATA: EUROPE, U.S.

Israel Money Markets March 19, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.25% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	19.3	9-13%	8-12%	8-13%
HAPOLAM	13.3	10-12%	11-12%	12-12.5%
DISCOUNT	13.3	7-13%	7-13%	9-13%
MIZRAHI	18.2	12-19%	12-20%	12-18%
FIRST INT'L	12.3	6-13%	7-13%	6-13%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of March 19)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	6.875	6.750	6.875
STG	10.750	10.750	10.000
DMK	3.875	3.875	3.875
SPR	3.375	3.250	3.250
YEN	4.000	3.750	3.625

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4837	1.5023	1.4828
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.1892	2.2166	2.2038
GERMANY	MARK	0.6565	0.6647	0.6589
FRANCE	FRANC	0.2131	0.2158	0.2145
HOLLAND	GULDEN	0.5809	0.5882	0.5848
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	0.7809	0.7907	0.7859
SWEDEN	KRONA	0.2558	0.2652	0.2608
NORWAY	KRONE	0.2080	0.2106	0.2085
DENMARK	KRONE	0.1776	0.1798	0.1767
FINLAND	MARK	0.2901	0.2938	0.2920
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0886	1.0820	1.0752
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.0564	1.0685	1.0621
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.7582	0.7444	0.7345
BELGIUM	FRANC	0.3182	0.3201	0.3224
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	0.9343	0.9480	0.9408
ITALY	LIRE	0.9853	0.9774	0.9705
JAPAN	YEN	0.8404	0.8509	0.845
JORDAN	DINAR	—	—	4.1649
EGYPT	POUND	—	—	0.8434

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

European Financial Markets

Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	349.25	P.M. FIX	346.75
SILVER:	PARIS	NOON FIX	351.79	ZURICH P.M.	348.65
PLATINUM:	LONDON	FIX	569.10		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	416.25		
		P.M.	113.00		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates	SPOT	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.2615/30	115/110	177/172	334/324
POUND STERLING	1.4745/55	102/100	150/147	262/247
SWISS FRANC	1.8975/80	108/100	167/160	332/322
JAPANESE YEN	177.30/50	58/56	89/ 86	183/171
FRENCH FRANC	6.5600/40	978/1078	1278/1378	1760/1860
ITALIAN LIRA	1538.50/50	2200/2325	3175/3350	5900/6100
DUTCH GULDEN	2.5535/50	85/ 81	128/123	247/239
BELGIAN FRANC	46.340/355	19/23	25/30	34/40
DANISH KRONE	8.3500/25	25/27	25/25	50/50
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4875/85	38/31	48/43	90/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	0.9535/35	30/25	38/33	45/38
FINNISH MARK	5.1080/00	230/270	340/390	650/750
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.7018/25	122/118	173/168	317/313
NORWEGIAN KRONE	7.1320/0	320/340	650/ 680	2010/2025

THE JERUSALEM POST

An Roth
Editor and
Managing Director

Erwin Erenkoff
Editor

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A tax on the bourse

A WORLD without taxes would be a nice place to live in. But so long as taxes remain unavoidable, there will be different kinds of them: some will be socially more just and some economically less distortive than others. A tax on stock-exchange transactions is recommendable on both counts, and its imposition in 1982 as part of the Peace for Galilee levy was arguably Yoram Aridor's only sensible act as finance minister.

Unfortunately it was allowed to expire as the war in Lebanon fortunately ground to a halt two years later.

Now the idea of such a tax is being revived, and it is sending shivers down the spines of ministers from both major parties. That Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens should be among its opponents is understandable, in view of the Likud's traditional attachment to the sanctity of private property, except in times of war. Rather less explicable is the resistance of Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amora'i, both of the Labour Alignment.

They did not flinch from voting for a budget that seeks to save \$2 million by cutting down on tax exemptions for invalids, or \$5 million by paying insurance for work accidents only after 7 days. They found the taxation of pensions earned out of the taxed income of a lifetime of work perfectly acceptable, but taxing speculation on the bourse gives them the jitters.

A tax on the sale of securities, their argument runs, will nip in the bud any chance of mobilizing money by business enterprises on the stock market. The government's decision, passed over initial Likud objections, to let business raise \$450 million for growth, will be put to naught because private savers, "threatened" with a 2 per cent tax if they decide to sell any such securities, will not buy them in the first place. They will rather keep their cash in short-term deposits on which the yield is now negative or, if they can, buy foreign currency and put it under the mattress where it will earn nothing, this argument claims.

The experience of 1982-84, when despite the same dire warnings a sales tax on securities did the stock market no harm, does not seem to have sunk in. Those who opposed the tax then, and those who oppose it now, do not seem to have asked themselves what difference there is between a sales tax on securities and the commissions the banks charge not only on sales but also on purchases.

Israel is one of the few industrialized countries that does not tax capital gains on the stock market. Given the sorry state of our tax administration, and the objective difficulties of a capital gains tax, a sales tax is the next-best alternative, and is surely preferable to a levy on education and to the taxing of maternity benefits.

But will the sales tax on securities prevent the mobilization of capital on the stock market by business firms? It certainly will not. The provident funds and other financial institutions that are, from April 1, to be permitted to invest \$150 million of their accumulating funds in business debentures instead of buying government bonds, are not going to re-sell these investments overnight. The same is true for other solid investors. And if the sales tax deters short-term speculation by the small fry who play the stock market to make a quick killing, it will not hurt the mobilization of solid, long-term savings. On the contrary, a stable stock market is a better instrument for growth than a bourse that gyrates wildly.

Although Premier Shimon Peres has stated that the option remains open, a sales tax on securities is probably dead for the time being. The almost concerted flurry of selling by stock brokers on Tuesday, and the panicky denials of the mere intention by ministers and officials, have effectively killed it. But the idea is one whose time is bound to come - and when that time comes, it is to be hoped the government will, as in the case of devaluation, offer it for public discussion only after it has been adopted.

Explosive Syria

THE SECOND terrorist bomb in a week has blown up in Damascus, killing and wounding scores of people, and the unofficial Israeli reaction inevitably is that the Syrians are now getting a taste of their own medicine.

Not that even the Syrians themselves suspect any Israeli involvement in the explosions. The perpetrators are doubtless being blamed for serving Israel's cause, but the official finger points rather at the Iraqis, who greatly resent President Assad's alliance with their arch-enemy Ayatollah Khomeini, and at supporters of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, whose destruction as a Palestinian leader is an avowed Syrian objective.

The range of possibilities is, however, somewhat wider. Lebanese Phalangists may have had a hand in the terrorist attempts, and no less so, surely, surviving members of the Moslem Brotherhood whose revolt in Hama a few years ago was savagely suppressed by the killing of tens of thousands, but without finishing off the organization.

Directly representing as he does but a small Alawite minority, Hafez Assad has a great many enemies both within and outside his country. But this need not necessarily be a boon for Israel: it may, in fact, serve as an added incentive for the Syrian ruler, pinched as his economy is, due to plummeting oil prices, to try and rally support both within and outside through an unaided surprise attack on Israel. Such an attack might seem to make no sense. As President Assad has himself observed just recently, Syria is still far from having achieved genuine "strategic parity" with its Jewish neighbour to which he aspires, and which is the condition of winning a true military victory over "the Zionists."

Certain of Soviet backing for a limited-purpose war, President Assad may, however, content himself with the unleashing of Syrian forces already deployed on the Golan Heights border for a lightning takeover of the area, as in October 1973. A quick cease-fire might then be expected to follow - on the understanding that Syria's aim was merely to recover Israel-occupied territory - and the regime in Damascus would turn the tables decisively on Israel, to the thunderous applause of even Assad's worst enemies in the Arab world.

The scenario is, needless to say, purely hypothetical, but it is not entirely unreasonable. Internal difficulties - a truth Israel's military intelligence ignored, with disastrous results, 13 years ago - may be less a bar than a prod to aggression. And Syria, while still no match for Israel, is now the strongest military power among the Arabs.

The reoccupation of the Golan Heights is not, of course, President Assad's ultimate aim, and he would not make peace with Israel if it were served to him on a platter, along with all the rest of the occupied lands. His foreign minister, Faruk Sharaa, made that clear enough during visits earlier this month to Vienna and London. Israel's retention - indeed, formally, annexation - of the area is his best justification for persistent belligerence.

Opec troubles hurt Afro-Arab world

JON MARKS

THE FALL in oil prices and the collapse of Opec's pricing policy has meant even more problems for the Afro-Arab world's major debtors. These include Opec founder member, Algeria and Egypt - now an important producer but not a member of the cartel.

Egypt is one of the sickest, with a debt estimated at \$32.5 billion which is the largest of any Afro-Arab state. Prices of Egyptian crude (60 per cent of exports) fell from \$26.70 to \$19 a barrel in one crazy month. Austerity cutbacks and the end of major infrastructural projects in the Gulf (not to mention expulsions from neighbouring Libya) have cut expatriate workers' remittances, a major foreign currency source which officially yields some \$4 billion a year.

Payments which were always slow got slower. Egypt waits a full 364 days before repaying the U.S. Congress with repayments of its military debt. While it moved from bankers' "medium risk" bracket to "high risk," Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) downgraded Egypt to its lowest category "D".

President Hosni Mubarak appointed an economist, Ali Lutfi, prime minister last September, with the unenviable brief of reversing Egypt's fortunes. Lutfi has moved slowly so far with minor reforms and an anti-corruption campaign aimed at the "fat cats" as the prelude to more important reforms to the multi-tiered exchange-rate system, controls on imports and energy consumption - and perhaps even the politically sensitive subsidies which burden Egypt's balance of payments deficit which was \$4.8 billion in 1984. Lutfi is expected to act before the new financial year begins on July 1. But the police conspirator in Cairo, recent strikes and criticism that the peace settlement with Israel has made Egypt dependent on Washington (depriving it of much-

needed Arab aid in the process) show how little room the government has to manoeuvre as it balances economic prudence with political caution.

Before oil prices fell, analysts believed Egypt would avoid a rescheduling because of its debt's structure. Unlike other North African problem debtors like Morocco, the bulk of Egypt's debt is owed to governments and institutions rather than commercial banks. Major creditors such as the U.S. (around \$9.5 billion), France (\$3 billion) and Spain (\$1.5 billion) will probably want to resolve their bilateral problems quietly.

Officials have consistently denied the need for rescheduling although they accept the need for reforms. Some now privately admit an arrangement of some kind will be necessary as oil revenues plunge. Cairo has made soundings for a \$1.5 billion IMF standby facility, but this will take some time to materialize.

THE IDEA of rescheduling remains anathema to Algeria which will negotiate hard to maintain its hydrocarbon sales and borrow money on the most favourable terms possible.

Even as bankers were assessing the consequences of falling oil prices for major league debtors such as Mexico and Venezuela, Algeria showed it still drives a hard bargain when the Banque Algérienne du Développement (BAD) mandated Japan's IBI International for a \$300 million loan.

Algeria needs the money to meet the heavy financing requirements imposed by its external debt, estimated at \$16.2 billion. Officials stress the government's commitment to maintaining payments of interest and principle - even at the expense of ambitious, but necessary, invest-

ment programmes. This could mean borrowing a further \$2 billion this year - or more if the more pessimistic forecasts of falling oil and gas revenues (97.5 per cent of exports last year) come true.

The economic outlook is more promising viewed from Algiers than from Cairo. But the immediate future will not be easy. Algeria voted for a new National Charter in January - a constitutional document which blends Islam, moderate socialism and economic realism into an ideology which promises to maintain Algeria's hard-won economic and political independence, industrial and agricultural development, high standards of education for five million plus schoolgoers and constantly improving conditions in other sectors. It is a tall order which Opec's oil crisis has made all the taller.

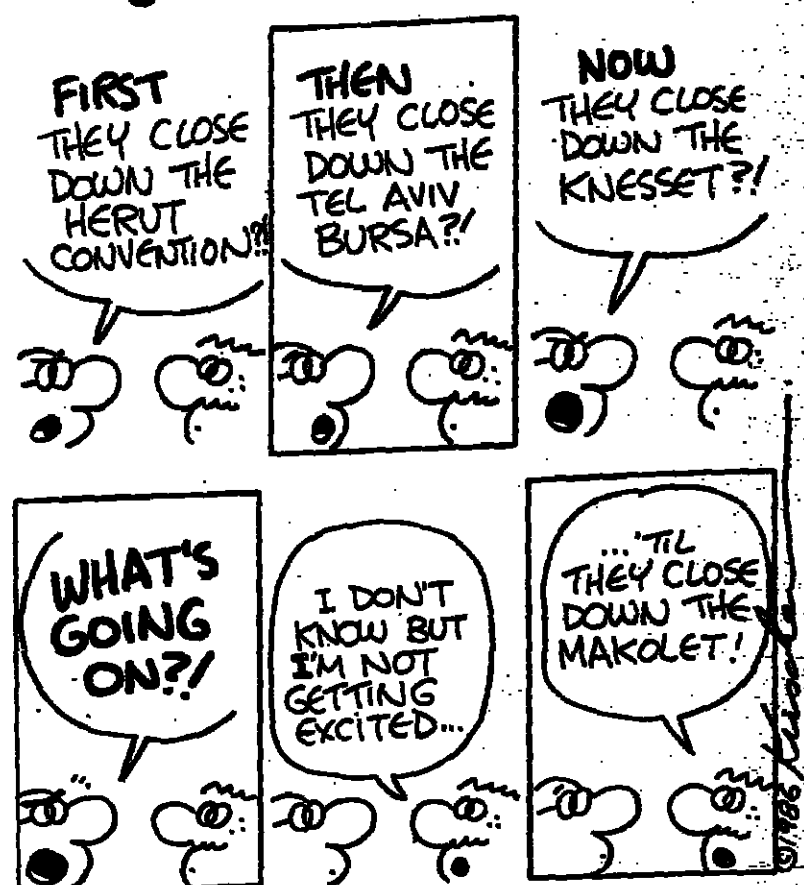
IN THE chaos following Opec's December conference, when the embattled cartel's shaky unity finally shattered under Saudi pressure to boost production, most members are unlikely to increase their "market share" enough to compensate for revenues lost to lower prices.

The need for "market stability" brought oil ministers from Gabon, Nigeria and Libya - Algeria's political rival in North Africa, but along with Iran its closest ally in Opec - to Algiers. Talks were followed by calls for further consultations with non-Opec producers like Angola, Congo, Tunisia and Egypt - which may lead to a new Organization of African Petroleum Exporting Countries, dedicated to bolstering oil prices, the main prop of some decidedly sick economies.

If Algeria is to fulfil a reasonable percentage of its goals, if Egypt is to bring some order to its economic chaos, then Africa's oil producers had better come up with something good when they next meet to plan strategy and lick their wounds.

(OBSERVER SERVICE)

Dry Bones



The real question: Who is a rabbi?

YEDIDYA ATLAS

FOR A VERY long time, the "Who is a Jew" issue has been a point of major contention between elements in Israeli society as well as among Jews in the Diaspora. In fact, wherever Jews congregate it's a topic guaranteed to get someone hot under the collar - pro or con. The irony is that the issue at stake is not really "Who is a Jew," but rather "Who is a Rabbi."

No one seriously contends that determining Jewish status is a secular question. Clearly the matter is religious. The real dispute is: which religious authority can decide who is or is not a Jew?

Non-Jews become Jews by conversion. So the real issue is which rabbis are competent to conduct conversions. Once that is clarified, the question of who is a Jew becomes moot.

Concerning Israel, there are two vital points to remember: the unity of the People of Israel is paramount, and the State of Israel has an official rabbinic incorporated into law by the Knesset in 1953.

Therefore, in Israel, the officially recognized religious authority is the Chief Rabbinate. Ben-Gurion as first prime minister of Israel and leader of the largest party, did not acquiesce in the law, because of coalition pressures by minority reli-

establish minimum levels of professional competence which must be met by anyone wishing to work here in that particular profession.

No one would conceive of challenging the authority of the Ministry of Health, for example, to determine professional standards for doctors wanting to practise medicine in Israel. Yet when the Chief Rabbinate claims the same rights vis-à-vis rabbis, there is opposition.

ANYONE wishing to practise in the Israeli rabbinate must pass exams demonstrating his professional competence. The exams are not given just to make trouble for Conservative or Reform rabbis. Even prominent Orthodox rabbis from abroad are required by law to pass them.

That the standards set by the Chief Rabbinate are those required by Halacha (Jewish law) cannot be a serious bone of contention because of the first point raised: the necessity of the unity of the Jewish People in Israel.

The question now being raised of a joint *beit din* (rabbinical court) in the U.S. comprised of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, is a clear example of recognition of the need for unified standards. A joint *beit din* is not the answer because it is a political-religious answer to a purely religious question. Practically speaking, religious pluralism is in reality the cause of religious anarchy.

Conservatives have problems with Reform conversions, the Orthodox have problems with both Conservative and Reform conversions. On the other hand, Orthodox conversions are clearly recognized by all three: the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. Hence, the real answer to the conversion question in the Diaspora is to leave it exclusively in the hands of Orthodox *batei din*. Such an arrangement would satisfy the requirements of all three groups and prevent any subsequent problems for the converts themselves when they come to Israel.

In Israel, by virtue of a standard Jewish law being the law of the land any Jew can marry any other without any questions being raised. This is not the case, unfortunately, in the Diaspora. Halacha, therefore, provides a common denominator that serves to guarantee physical and spiritual unity if not necessarily ideological unity.

Those who do not qualify as rabbis in accordance with the standards set by the Chief Rabbinate, then, cannot logically demand that it automatically accept their conversions.

The Chief Rabbinate's position is that anyone born of a Jewish mother or converted in accordance with Halacha is a Jew. The problem the Israel Rabbinate has is not with Conservative or Reform Jews but rather with their rabbinate, and that is the real issue: Who is a Rabbi? - not Who is a Jew?

The writer is a free-lance journalist and a spokesman for the Chief Rabbinate.

READERS' LETTERS

STAR WARS: A DANGEROUS ROAD

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I refer to John Farrar's article of February 16, "Reaching for the stars."

Let us assume that SDI is technically feasible, though this is disputed by many of our foremost scientists in the field of computers - and SDI depends on computer technology. But SDI is flawed in other respects.

President Reagan, in his usual way of overstating an issue close to his heart, has claimed that SDI will be a shield protecting the American people from Soviet missile attacks. One is reminded of the claim made after World War I that the Maginot Line would protect France against further attacks by Germany. (Even had the Maginot Line been completed, this would not have been the case.) Both statements are extremely harmful, since they lulled the Frenchmen and help lull the Americans today into a sense of security which does not exist.

When the Germans learned of the Maginot Line - and even before that - they started developing a weapon system and strategy to circumvent the French defenses: this started even before Hitler got to power, almost right after World War I. It is reasonable to assume that the Soviets, too, will take SDI into consideration when they work on weapon systems that will make SDI obsolete by the time it has been perfected (if ever) and put into operation.

The technology of miniaturization has advanced to the point where nuclear explosive devices could be produced in shapes so small that they could easily be smuggled into any country and set off by remote control. The Soviet writer Arbatov mentioned this recently: What will the Pentagon, or for that matter the Kremlin, do if a nuclear explosion occurs here, in the Soviet Union, or anywhere in the world, the origin of which cannot be detected even by the most sophisticated SDI satellites?

Rather than expend untold billions on SDI and means to outsmart SDI, the only rational way is for the U.S. and the USSR to join together with Britain, France and China in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons as the first steps towards total elimination of nuclear arms. Israel may be a temporary beneficiary of the research and development of SDI but we must look at SDI on a long range basis; eventually the trip down the SDI road will harm the entire world.

WALTER A. SHELDON
Lido Beach, New York.

THE COST OF CREDIT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - In your issue of March 14, you published some advertisements from supermarket chains offering their customers the chance to buy now and pay only on May 2.

Obviously, to be able to offer such extended credit, prices must be a little higher, which means that customers who pay cash are subsidizing the others.

Since cash payment helps the stores' cash flow, is it not time that they should cater to paying customers by offering them a reduction? Since all checkouts are connected to the computer, this would not be difficult to organize, and who knows, it might even teach us new shopping habits.

F. GRÖSS
Jerusalem.

SUMMER TIME

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I am appalled and amazed by the Minister of Interior's tactics on the subject of Summer Time (your editorial of March 7). I too once thought he was more moderate than his predecessor. I too was wrong.

Summer Time has become a national concern that affects every one of us. What a wonderful summer we had last year - cool mornings and delightfully long, light-filled evenings. The summer was much easier to bear, not to mention the big savings in energy.

Let us start to demand that Summer Time go to the top of the national agenda. I call upon the Prime Minister to use his influence as he has done on other weightier issues.

EYTAN ORNSTEIN
Shorashim.

LEISURE IS BAD FOR KIBBUTZ VOLUNTEERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I am a volunteer leader, coordinating between a group of 30 volunteers and my kibbutz, Shoval. In reply to Gabbi's plaint concerning the new demand for kibbutz volunteers to work eight hours a day (Letters, March 9), I would like to point out a few facts mostly unknown to the public:

1. In former years, the kibbutz used to absorb ulpan groups whose members worked six hours and studied Hebrew for two hours per day. When these ulpan groups were later replaced by volunteer groups - who were not taught Hebrew - the six-hour workday remained in force while the two-hour study period became a vacuum.

2. Volunteers completing their daily assignments at noon often complain of having far too much leisure time. This encourages too much drinking, smoking and even profligacy out of sheer boredom. Adults aged 19-32 work an eight-hour day in most parts of the world when employed.

3. Volunteers remaining on the kibbutz for a period of three months receive, in addition to the four Sabbath days per month, an additional two free days for travelling. Moreover, the kibbutz provides a one-day trip every four weeks and a three-day trip every three months, the latter at the expense of the kibbutz.

4. Living and working on the kibbutz constitute a rare and priceless experience for young people from abroad who are living communally for the first time in their lives and relishing its numerous possibilities and facilities, including free board and lodging, sport and cultural activities.

5. After their travels in Israel, Sinai and Egypt, volunteers are always welcome at the kibbutz, where they may organize and prepare the next lap of their travels.

Where in the entire world, including Israel, are such facilities offered to travelling youth? Wouldn't some expression of praise and gratitude, rather than a harsh criticism of the kibbutz, be more in place?

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Shoval.

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